

ARAB TIMES

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Sabah's wife laid to rest

KUWAIT, April 1. (Kuna): The body of Sheikha Fatouh Salma Al Hmoud Al Sabah, wife of Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, was laid to rest here today.

Sheikha Fatouh, 54, died last night and news of her death was announced by the Amiri Diwan.

The funeral procession was led by H.H. the Amir, H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah, head of the National Guard. Sheikh Salem Al Ali, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Sheikhs, two sons of the deceased Sheikh Nasir and Sheikh Hamad as well as members of the bereaved family.

Condolences will be accepted by Dasman Palace after the Eshah prayers tonight.

Rebels threaten US men in Manila

MANILA, April 1. (AP): The Communist rebel chieftain threatened today to escalate attacks in cities and warned that targets could include US military personnel and Japanese aid workers allegedly involved in counter-insurgency efforts.

Both US and Japanese officials deny any role in counter-insurgency operations.

Romulo Kintanar, chief of staff of the New People's Army, escaped in November 1988 while attending a birthday party for his former prison warden. He made the remarks in a written statement sent to news organizations three days after the rebel movement marked its 21st year anniversary.

"Definitely, we will intensify urban warfare as the puppet government of (President Corazon) Aquino and its military continues to oppress people in cities and the whole country," Kintanar said. "It is to be expected that the mass movement and partisan operations will be heightened in urban centers."

Kintanar said that targets would include Americans along with and Japanese involved in counter-insurgency. He said US troops have no right to stay in the Philippines "even for a brief period of time."

He also charged that projects funded by the Japanese official development assistance are being used against their "mass base" in the countryside, and that Japanese aid workers were therefore legitimate targets.

"We gathered information that the Japanese Oda is being used for counter-insurgency," he said. "There are also times when these are used against peasants, their livelihood and the environment."

"We are warning the Japanese government to stop this. We are asking the Japanese people to oppose this evil deed by their government."

Aquino conferred today with congressional leaders but failed to overcome opposition to her controversial agrarian reform secretary.

The meeting, which included leaders of the pro-Aquino straggle of the democratic Filipino Party (LDP), was called to overcome opposition to confirming former Rep. Florencio Abad as secretary of Agrarian Reform.

Although the party is pro-Aquino, members on the congressional commission on appointments have blocked Abad's appointment because they claim he is biased against landlords.

Investment Holdings

Issue 4:06 am

Issue 5:07 pm

Demonstrators battle police near Downing Street; 130 injured and 340 arrested; shops looted as angry crowds rampage

London revolt against poll tax

I'm not retiring, says Thatcher

LONDON, April 1. (Agencies): Demonstrators battled police on the streets of London for more than seven hours in the most violent protests yet against a new tax which has sent Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's popularity plummeting.

As many as 130 people, almost half of them police, were injured as angry crowds rampaged through the centre of the

Hundreds of youths began pelting police lines with stones pelted from a building site on Whitehall, site on the main government offices.

Police and hospital officials said as many as 57 police and 75 civilians were injured. The officer in charge of policing the rally, Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meynell, told a news conference 341 people were arrested.

He said the event began as a peaceful and organised march and blamed around 3,000 "fairly hard core violent people" for the disorder.

A building in Trafalgar Square was set alight and a thick pall of smoke rose over the area littered with broken glass and debris. A small fire at the South African embassy was put out.

Theatres cancelled shows and restaurants closed as the disturbances spread. People heading for the theatre and tourists caught by the violence ran for cover.

The 2,000 policemen assigned to police the rally at first retreated under a shower of missiles but later regrouped and charged into the crowd. Riot police with shields and batons and police officers on horseback were called in.

"The police tried to crush us from both sides from Whitehall," said a student who asked to be identified only as Lara. "People were in a panic. There were young children there and old people, but the horses were stepping on anybody."

(Continued on Page 2)

British capital yesterday, attacking police with stones, overturning cars, starting fires and smashing shop windows.

A rally of more than 40,000 people demonstrating against the so-called "poll tax" erupted in violence when a breakaway group tried to reach Thatcher's Downing Street residence and were pushed back by police.



A policeman arrests a rioter as violence spread throughout downtown London streets following anti-poll tax demonstrations in Trafalgar Square March 31. (Reuters wirephoto)

Threat to kill US citizens

Anger at Jew influx

Call for mass weddings

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, April 1. (AP): The ruler of this southern Gulf emirate, Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, has called for holding mass weddings to cut down on high marriage expenses.

The oil-rich Gulf, not only are dowries exorbitant but the families of brides and bridegrooms by custom have to organize lavish wedding celebrations.

The heavy cost of marrying has created a social problem that hinders marriages and prompts men to seek Indian, Filipino or Egyptian wives who do not insist on the local dowry levels.

A dowry may go as high as 100,000 dirhams (\$28,000), with an equivalent amount needed for wedding expenses.

Sheikh Sultan, in television address yesterday night criticized fathers over their exaggerated demands from those who seek their daughters in marriage. "The problem is that there are several greedy fathers," he said.

DAY BY DAY

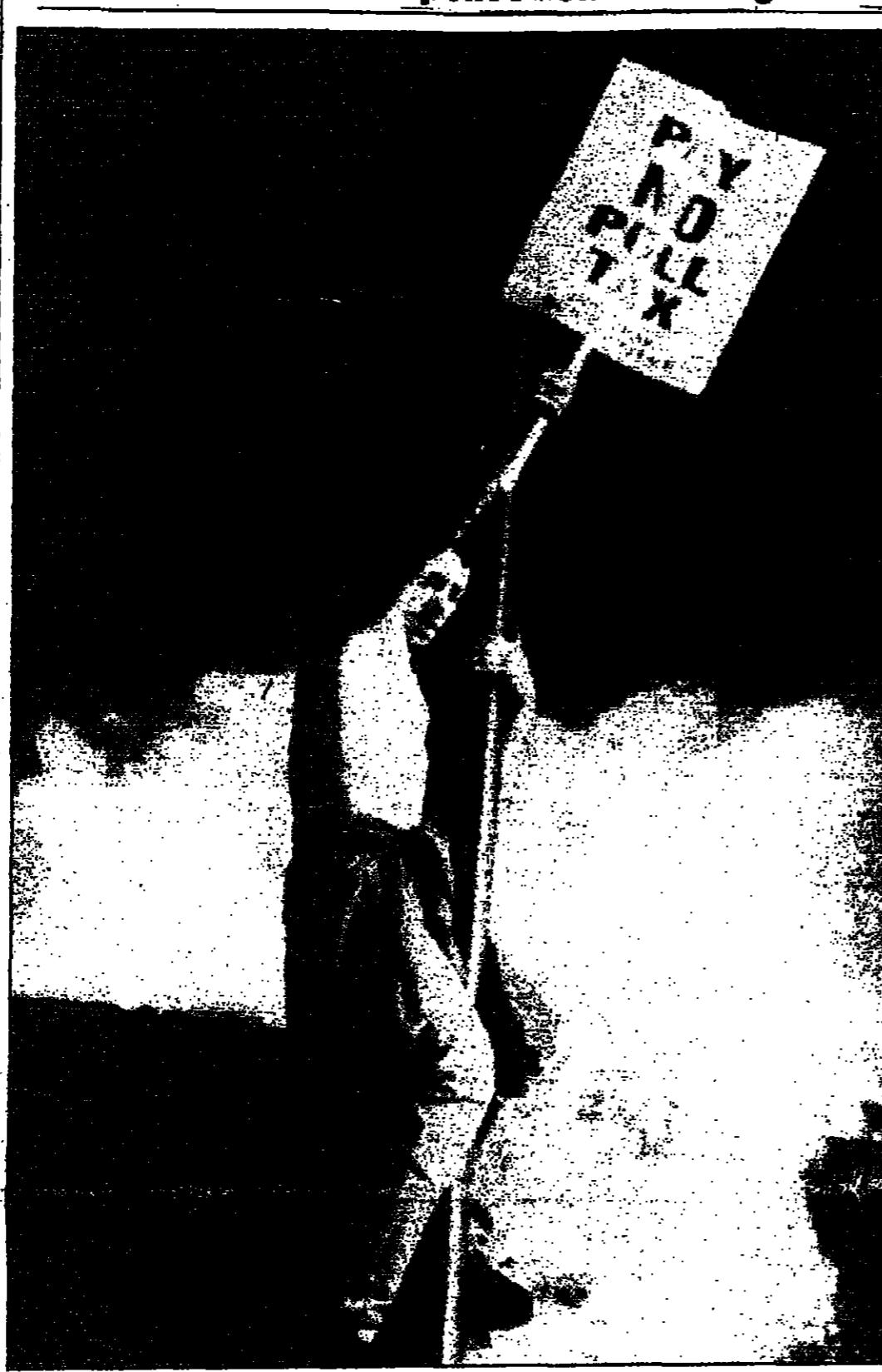
THE GCC states are supposed to be open to its citizens to freely work and move without any restrictions.

Unfortunately, this is not the scenario, though they can move freely in foreign countries.

Why can we not open our doors and appreciate the positive developments in the city of Dubai in the UAE where there are no hurdles and complete freedom of movement alongwith free enterprise.

Here, we maintain that the Dubai experiment is subject to collapse, though for the past 30 years, Dubai has been maintaining free enterprise without complications. Basically, Dubai applies the theory: "Work wherever and with whatever you can and also take whatever you can."

Zahed Matar



An anti-poll-tax demonstrator perches on a lamp post as a construction site cabin burns in the background. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWSWATCH

Stronger GCC, ACC ties urged: Former secretary-general of the Arab League Mahmoud Riad called for stronger security links between two Arab groups in remarks published on Sunday.

He said the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states and the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) grouping Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq should co-ordinate more closely. (Reuters)

Car ploughs into a group: Thirteen people were killed when a car ploughed into a group of supporters on their way to hear African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela address a rally on Sunday.

A spokesman for Livingstone Hospital in the eastern cape coastal town of Port Elizabeth said at least 12 people were injured. (Reuters)

Guide raises money: A Swiss mountain guide climbed, jumped, ran, rode and swam his way across Switzerland from the Matterhorn to Geneva at the weekend in a bid to raise money for the handicapped.

Using 13 different non-motorised forms of transport from horse-back riding to hang-gliding, Jean Troillet completed the arduous journey in just 31 hours. (Reuters)

Kuwaiti lady sentenced: A Kuwaiti lady was sentenced by the Traffic Court to one month imprisonment and fine of KD50. The lady, who

was identified as S.M., was charged of committing a number of traffic violations, a press release by the Interior Ministry Public Relations Department said yesterday. The ministry said that this is the first time a lady has been sentenced in jail for traffic violation in Kuwait. The court charged the lady of reckless driving, breaking speed limits. fleeing from the police patrol, refused to give her driving license and registration book in addition to violating public discipline rules.

New form of contraception: British scientists have developed a "revolutionary" new form of contraception that vaccinates women against pregnancy for up to two years, it was reported in London Sunday.

The vaccine works by covering the human egg in antibodies so that the male sperm cannot recognise the egg and fertilise it, the Observer newspaper said. (Kuwait)

Freedom for Bourguiba: Tunisia's main opposition party, the Movement of Socialist Democrats, has said the authorities were holding former president Habib Bourguiba under what amounted to house arrest and should let him go.

"He (Bourguiba) is under strict supervision and receives visits only from his family, some acquaintances and his doctors, only with advance permission from the authorities," the party said in this week's edition of its newspaper Al Mustaqbal. (Reuters)

Police shooting protest: A Kuwaiti lady was sentenced by the Traffic Court to one month imprisonment and fine of KD50. The lady, who

No split over border accord

RIYADH, April 1. (Kuna): Saudi Arabia categorically denied British press reports which claimed that Saudi leaders were split over a border agreement between the kingdom and its neighbour, Oman.

The state-run news agency SPA quoted an unnamed official source as saying the reports, published yesterday in the Independent Daily newspaper and the economist report, were "entirely baseless."

The source, "regretted" the publication of the reports and indicated they were part of misleading campaigns against the Saudi Kingdom.

The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine warns that it will

blow up 173 American companies operating in the Arab Gulf region and assassinate important American personalities, including American ambassadors," said the one-page handwritten statement in Arabic.

The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine said it would also attack Polish and Soviet interests for helping Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and take action against Britain to halt what it called a British campaign against Iraq.

The English-language Jordan Times daily said local Islamic movements denied links with the group.

It quoted Muslim Brotherhood sources as saying it was backed by one of Jordan's Arab neighbours, which it did not name, and was also affiliated to the Hamas and Islamic Jihad factions in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Islamic Army for the Liberation of Palestine warns that it will

Nepal's king fires nine ministers

7,000 rally to protest police shootings

KATMANDU, April 1. (Agencies): King Birendra announced major changes in the government, which was split by widespread pro-democracy protests and demonstrations against police killing and wounding protesters at demonstrations and arrests of protesters.

Doctors and nurses went on strike today to protest the arrests of medical professionals but called off their action after the government agreed to release those detained. They said today the government reneged on its promise.

The government also announced it was closing all schools in and around Kathmandu following a series of violent clashes on campuses in recent days between student activists and police.

Harvard-educated King Birendra fired nine government ministers today but said he was retaining March Man

Singh as prime minister. He named Soviet-trained engineer Hari Bahadur Busney as foreign minister to replace Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, who resigned on Friday in protest against police firing on protesters in the capital's suburb of Patan, killing two.

At least 14 others have been killed in violent pro-democracy demonstrations since the movement was started Feb 18 by opposition members.

Thousands of people spent last night outdoors and set up roadblocks to prevent police vehicles from entering the city center to carry out more arrests.

Temple bells rang throughout the night to warn residents of approaching police but there was no violence reported.



Demonstrators rush their injured fellow demonstrator to hospital after police opened fire on them March 30 in Patan, Nepal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Street entertainer

An elderly man, wearing a pirate hat and glasses with eyes painted on them, makes faces for afternoon shoppers in central West Berlin on Friday. The street entertainer apparently was very popular and made plenty of money in a short time. (Reuter wirephoto)

US holds census for the 21st time

WASHINGTON, April 1. (AP): Americans are being asked to sit down; take out a pencil and count themselves today.

It's the 21st time the United States has taken its own measure.

"Our goal for the 1990 census is to count every person resident in the United States," said Thomas Murrin, deputy secretary of commerce. "We are ready and confident...."

The national count isn't just a case of idle curiosity on the part of the US government.

The constitution requires a count every 10 years to reassess seats in the House of Representatives, one of two chambers of Congress. States are represented according to population in the house, while the other chamber, the Senate, has two members from each state.

Other information collected is used to determine the need for many social programmes and to decide which states, cities and towns most need federal money.

"In many respects the census is an index to our quality of life," said John Keane of Notre Dame University, former head of the census bureau. "The census shows us anew where our nation hurts and needs help...."

The gang population, births, deaths, education, household composition, housing quality, income and poverty, fertility, single parent families, occupations, populations mobility, disability, the homeless are just a few examples of what the census covers," Keane said.

Census forms were sent to about 85 million homes 10 days ago, and government workers will visit millions more where mailing lists were not available.

Although today is officially designated as Census Day, many people completed their forms and sent them in ahead of time.

Clocks set an hour ahead in US

WASHINGTON, April 1. (UPI): Clocks in much of the United States will "spring forward" by one hour at 2 am on the first day of April, depriving people of an hour of sleep and plunging the nation into daylight-saving time.

The clocks "fall back" one hour at 2.00 am local time on the last Sunday of October.

Only Hawaii, Arizona, eastern Indiana, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa are excluded from the change.

The idea of juggling the hour hand to compensate for the seasonal change in the amount of daylight in the temperate zone can be traced to Benjamin Franklin, who recommended that shops be opened and closed earlier during summer months.

Audiences grumble More 'telly' for Britons

LONDON, April 1. (AP): When there were only four television channels in Britain, watching "telly" was the country's favourite past-time and viewers boasted that British programmes were the best in the world.

Now that government deregulation is bringing a smorgasbord of conventional and satellite TV channels to British homes, studies show audiences have dropped by 10 per cent. And half of those still watching, grumble about the programming.

It's a paradox that is troubling an industry in upheaval as the latest target of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's sell-off of state-owned or regulated enterprises.

Until last year when publisher Rupert Murdoch introduced satellite television to Britain, television was neatly carved among four networks — two run by the state-funded British Broadcasting Corp. and two by private companies.

Now, legislation before the House of Commons calls for auctioning off all the commercial television franchises and the creation of a fifth land-based television channel.

It is the most radical overhaul since commercial networks were first allowed to compete with the venerable BBC in 1955.

Meanwhile, a private consortium is about to launch Britain's second satellite TV network, British Satellite Broadcasting, to compete with Murdoch's money-losing Sky Television.

All that's missing are the viewers.

Britons still watch an average of 25 hours and 21 minutes of television every week. But that's a 10-percent drop from five years ago, despite the arrival of overnight television in 1987 and then Sky.

"Some of this (drop) is attributable to video, but the same period saw a considerable increase in alternative leisure activities — taking two or more holidays, eating out," said Barry Cox, director of London Weekend Television.

Bernard Bennett, LWT's controller of research, thinks "the existing cake will have to be

reduced to fit the new market."

Montagnier, whose research team at Pasteur isolated the AIDS virus in 1983, believes scientists need to learn more about the mechanisms of the illness before they can suggest an effective treatment.

"Discovery of the virus is important but it just isn't all there is to AIDS," he said, stressing that hygiene played a major role in containing the disease. "The virus has probably existed for a long time ... the epidemic appeared almost simultaneously in Africa and North America but it developed much faster in Africa."

"We have to think of co-factors transmitted in a tropical atmosphere and in countries where the most elementary rules of hygiene are not respected. If rules of prevention were followed, AIDS would be eradicated," he said.

Soviet defector gives up

NORTH FORT MYERS, Florida, April 1. (AP): A Soviet defector whose family joined him in the United States last year after a nine-year struggle allegedly shot and killed his wife and one daughter and wounded another daughter, police say.

Valentin Bereza, 58, fled to Tennessee after the shootings Thursday night and surrendered Saturday morning to police in Nashville, police said. Nashville homicide detective Walter Keefer Jr said Bereza was being held for Florida police on a fugitive warrant.

Bereza is charged with the premeditated shooting deaths of his wife, Raisa Bereza, 53, and daughter Elena, 30, as well as the premeditated attempted murder of his second daughter, Tonya, 17, the sheriff's office in Lee County, Fla., said yesterday.

Officers in North Fort Myers said Raisa and Elena Bereza died of gunshot to the head from a large-calibre handgun. Tonya Bereza was in fair condition in a hospital recovering from a gunshot to the face.

Kathleen Turner returns to Broadway

'I love the exactness of film but theatre is so exciting'

PITTSBURGH, April 1: (Reuters) Film star Kathleen Turner is proud of the work she's done in the theatre, but, unlike many actresses, she won't express a preference for stage or screen.

"I don't prefer either. I want both," she said in a recent interview. "I love the exactness of film, that you can be so incredibly precise. On stage, you must be less specific."

On the other hand, Turner said she thrived on theatre's opportunity to work before an audience. "The experience is so supportive, and so exciting."

Turner was in Pittsburgh on a pre-Broadway tour with "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" Tennessee Williams' tale of love, sickness, sexuality and frustration, which opened in New York last month for a limited run.

Turner is playing Maggie, the sexy young wife fighting to regain the

romantic interest of her husband.

The character is marked by a frustrated, bitchy side, but Turner says she also tries to emphasize Maggie's humour.

"It's quite delightful to play her. I like the level of aliveness I have with her," the 35-year-old actress said.

Already known as a sizzling leading lady in film since starring in the 1981 hit "Body Heat," Turner said she had wanted to play Maggie since she was a girl.

But she stressed that there's a lot more to Kathleen Turner than the steamy parts she's played.

"I don't identify with any role," she said. "It's acting, really, truly it is."

"I'm not like that at home," said Turner, a happily married mother whose desire to stay close to her family is reportedly the reason the show's pre-

Broadway tour was limited to four east coast cities.

As well as playing the seductress in "Body Heat," Turner's film work has included a string of hits— "Prizzi's Honour," "Peggy Sue Got Married," "The Accidental Tourist," and a trio of films with Michael Douglas, "Romancing the Stone," "Jewel of the Nile," and most recently "The War of the Roses."

Before her screen break in "Body Heat," Turner worked both in regional theatre and on Broadway.

The actress also put her unmistakable husky vocals to good use in the 1988 hit film "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," providing the voice of Jessica Rabbit, the film's sexy cartoon star.

The tall blonde actress said of her most famous roles: "It's fun to play these women, with power and intelligence."

She laughed when she was asked to name her favourite leading man.

"Daniel Hugh Kelly," she said, referring to the actor who plays Maggie's alienated, alcoholic husband Brick in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Asked how he felt acting as foil to an actress like Turner, Kelly joked in turn. "I've quit drinking."

Besides Turner and Kelly, the production includes veteran movie and theater actor Charles Durning as big daddy, Brick's father and the family's dying patriarch, and Polly Holliday, best known as a television actress, as big mama, big daddy's wife.

Turner said she was committed to "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" on Broadway until mid-July, but wouldn't discuss her future plans.

"I can't tell you," she said, leaning back and pulling her hair up into the air.

Vaccine not the answer for Aids

PARIS, April 1. (Reuters): The Frenchman who discovered the killer Aids virus says a vaccine could be ready in a few years but he doubts if it will be the magic answer the world is waiting for.

Luc Montagnier believes Aids can best be contained by a combination of prevention and treatment of patients already infected with the virus.

"Vaccine is a magic word. We mustn't delude ourselves ... it's very important to have a policy for preventing infection but also to prevent the illness in those already infected," he said.

In an interview last week in his office at the Pasteur Institute, Montagnier, a cheerful, soft-spoken man, said scientists were close to producing a vaccine against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

"The scientific community almost has the formula," he said. "But we still have to test it on chimpanzees so we won't have a human vaccine for four or five years."

The Pasteur Institute, named after Louis Pasteur who discovered the rabies vaccine in 1885, specialises in vaccine research.

Montagnier would give no details of his current work but he said research should focus on developing a treatment for Aids-infected patients in whose bodies the virus is dormant.

What were needed were medicines to help such patients fight off the disease, he said.

"There is a difference between a vaccine to protect uninfected people and medicines to heighten the immunity of those already infected ... we can presume that all seropositives (people infected with the Aids virus) would follow a treatment individually suited to each patient," he said.

"It would cost a lot of money but probably less than the actual cost of Aids in human lives," he said.

Rejecting the popular idea that Aids can be compared with the plague which killed a third of the European population in the 15th century, Montagnier said it was far less deadly.

"It's dangerous to say Aids is like the plague. It is more like syphilis in the 16th century — a sexually transmitted disease that erupted because of a change in behaviour patterns.

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Montagnier, whose research team at Pasteur isolated the AIDS virus in 1983, believes scientists need to learn more about the mechanisms of the illness before they can suggest an effective treatment.

"Discovery of the virus is important but it just isn't all there is to AIDS," he said, stressing that hygiene played a major role in containing the disease. "The virus has probably existed for a long time ... the epidemic appeared almost simultaneously in Africa and North America but it developed much faster in Africa."

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INTERNATIONAL

Delay in talks a setback to Klerk

JOHANNESBURG, April 1. (AP): The decision of the African National Congress to postpone talks with the government on dismantling apartheid is being widely viewed as a serious setback for President F.W. de Klerk.

The ANC said it was taking the step yesterday because police shootings of black protesters have soured the climate for black-white talks.

De Klerk, while expressing regret over the violence, has urged the ANC to reconsider its postponement.

"I cannot agree that such criticism should stand in the way of discussions, especially if those discussions can contribute to the avoidance of such incidents in the future," he told a meeting in the Transvaal town of Naboomspruit.

Democratic Party co-leader Zach de Beer said: "While the shooting in Sebokeng was a deplorable episode, it can be no excuse for breaking off talks."

He added: "Without negotiations for a new constitution, the prospects for our country are extremely bleak. One can only express the heartfelt hope that the ANC will think again, and quickly too."

Nelson Mandela, the ANC's deputy president, told tens of thousands of supporters that an April 11 meeting with the government was put on hold indefinitely because "state violence against our people still continues."

He cited excessive police force against protesters on Monday that left at least nine blacks dead and more than 400 injured in Sebokeng. Police said they opened fire after protesters stoned a police station in the town near Johannesburg and set fire to municipal buildings.

"If the government talks about negotiations on the one hand and massacres of our people on the other hand, we cannot tolerate that," Mandela said at a packed sports stadium in the southern city of Bisho, capital of the nominally independent Ciskei homeland.

"The conditions for the (ANC's) armed struggle still prevail," he added.

Mandela said he acted on instructions from exiled ANC leaders in Lusaka, Zambia, where he called De Klerk on Friday to tell him of the postponement.

He did not say what it would take to reschedule the talks, which have been hailed as a groundbreaking effort to clear the way for extending political rights to the country's 28 million black majority.

The Cabinet Minister for Black Affairs, Constitutional Development, Gerrit Viljoen, said the white-led government was "giving attention to the announcement's implications." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Dr Klerk said he was awaiting a full report on the violence. But he said the deaths should not be used to derail the proposed talks between black leader and the government.

De Klerk says he wants equal voting rights for all South Africans. But he opposes outright black majority rule and envisions a mechanism that will give the country's 5 million whites veto power on major policy decisions.

The ANC wants a one-person, one-vote democracy.

Mandela, released from 27 years of imprisonment Feb 11, is the effective head of the ANC while President Oliver Tambo recovers from a stroke in Sweden. But events of the past two days suggest he may not have the freedom to pursue his initiatives without the approval of younger, more militant ANC leaders.

In Lusaka, the ANC said it would hold a meeting within five days to review developments in South Africa.

The first direct peace talks between the Fretilin government and Mozambican national resistance rebels have been postponed because the two sides cannot agree on a venue, a newspaper reported yesterday in Lisbon, Portugal.

The respected Lisbon weekly *Expresso* said the talks slated for the first two weeks in April were postponed after the Renamo rebels rejected the government-proposed venue of Malawi. It said the rebels offered to meet in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

The government rejected Nairobi, the newspaper reported.

The two sides also were unable to agree on an agenda, *Expresso* said. It said some members of the ruling Fretilin Party supported continued military action against the rebels.



Seven US soldiers were injured when their bus was attacked by suspected leftist guerrillas in Honduras. At left, an injured soldier is put onto a medical helicopter amid heavy security. At right, one of the wounded soldiers is helped by others as he boards the medical helicopter. (Reuter wirephoto)

Seven wounded in Honduran raid

Snipers attack US airmen

TEGUCIGALPA, April 1. (AP): Snipers fired automatic weapons at a bus carrying 28 US airmen along a mountain road yesterday, and seven soldiers were wounded, two seriously, US officials said.

An anonymous caller to the private radio network radio America claimed responsibility on behalf of the leftist Morazano National Liberation Front.

US embassy spokesman Terrence Kneebone said US government personnel in Honduras had been on a precautionary alert ahead of the second anniversary this week of the burning of the US consulate in Tegucigalpa to protest the extradition of an alleged drug kingpin.

Three attackers fired on the bus six miles (10 kilometres) north of Tegucigalpa, the capital, said Maj. Bruce Jessup, a spokesman for US troops based in the Central American

nation.

"The Americans did not have time to return fire, although there were some security personnel on the bus," he said.

Kneebone said that seven soldiers were wounded. He said one soldier shot in the head was in critical condition, and another wounded in the stomach was in "delicate condition."

Kneebone said the other five injured soldiers were out of danger.

He said four of the five were evacuated by air last night to the US Southern Command in Panama, "where they have better treatment facilities at Gorgas hospital than in Soto Cano."

"All five are out of danger. In fact, they walked out of the hospital after receiving first aid treatment earlier in the day," he said.

Jessup said the servicemen are members of

the US Air Force, but he refused to identify them by unit or release the names of the injured.

Asked how he knew there were three attackers, Jessup said the US soldiers had seen them as they fled.

A White House spokesman, Sean Walsh, said in Washington: "We deplore any action against US citizens. We'll be working closely with the Honduran government on the investigation."

The Morazano Front, founded in 1979, is thought to be an arm of the Communist Party. The group takes its name from Gen. Francisco Morazano, a former president of Honduras.

It claimed responsibility for the last major attack on US forces in Honduras, on July 13, 1989, when a homemade bomb was thrown at nine US army military policemen,

Tiananmen closed

Dissidents call for protest

BEIJING, April 1. (AP): Thousands of yellow-capped schoolchildren marched on Tiananmen Square today morning, but police barred the general public from entering on a day when dissidents had called for silent protest on the square.

The children were bused in to attend ceremonies marking civic efforts to plant trees and flowers for the Asian games to be held in Beijing next September. Many waved the red flags of the Young Pioneers, a group for teaching social and ideological values.

And other activists to take a "protest stroll" on the square on April 1 and April 5 to mourn those killed last year.

April 5 is the Qingming festival, the annual day when Chinese honour their dead. On Qingming in 1976, thousands of Chinese carried wreaths and flowers to Tiananmen to honour Chou En-Lai, the beloved premier who died that January, and indirectly protest the ultra-leftist policies of the government.

The brutal suppression of that spontaneous show of defiance in what is now called the first Tiananmen incident led to the eventual overthrow of the leftist "gang of four."

Organised demonstrations are banned, and the "stroll" was proposed to avoid the certain arrests of those participating in any public protests against the repressive policies of the current hardline government of premier Li Peng.

Chinese sources say Communist Party officials in their work units are warning them to stay away from Tiananmen Square, the symbolic political centre of China. There were stepped up police patrols around the square Saturday night, and police or soldiers today manned rooftop lookouts around the square.

The talks had been soured by Manila's charges that the United States had failed to live up to its aid commitments and allegations of involvement by a US air force colonel in the December coup.

A Philippine general who claimed to have infiltrated Army rebel ranks had alleged in an affidavit that the US officer offered to supply anti-tank missiles and other weapons to the coup plotters.

General Alejandro Galido said the American identified himself as Harold Magleto and passed himself off as a close friend of Platt's.

"Anyone could drop my name," Platt said, dismissing the report as "a non-story."

Jakarta rejects clemency plea, orders execution

JAKARTA, April 1. (UPI): President Suharto rejected a request for clemency by a political prisoner sentenced to death for taking part in a failed communist coup attempt in 1965, a court official said today.

A central Jakarta district court spokesman confirmed that Asep Suryaman, 68, will be executed before firing squad, but gave no details. Executions in Indonesia are carried out in secret.

He said the rejection in decree dated March 7 was received by the court on March 19. The court convicted Suryaman in 1975 of taking part in the failed communist coup in 1965 that eventually led to the downfall of then President Sukarno.

Four other prisoners sentenced for participating in the coup were shot by firing squad in mid-February, sparking international protests. The Dutch government said it might withhold \$13 million in loans to Indonesia because of the executions.

Philippines bases talks

New delays

MANILA, April 1. (Reuter): Talks on the future of US military bases in the Philippines, already twice postponed, face new delays amid charges that an American was involved in last December's Army coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino.

US ambassador Nicholas Platt said the talks would not take place as scheduled in mid-April but declined to elaborate, saying only that "we need a little more time."

Platt, who talked to reporters at a diplomatic reception on Friday night, denied he had any connection with an American implicated by a Philippine general in the December army revolt.

The bases talks were to have been held last December but were postponed because of the mutiny, the sixth and most serious coup Aquino has faced in her four years in office.

Re-set for February, they were again postponed to April after Philippine officials said they were not ready.

No official reasons have been given for the latest postponement.

The United States is seeking an extension of its lease on Clark Air Base, Subic Naval Base and four smaller facilities in the Philippines. The lease expires in 1991.

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Soviets break altitude record

Soviet chief test pilot Vladimir Arkhipenko (right), is shown putting on his helmet prior to setting the new world altitude record near

Moscow March 31. Flying a Soviet M-17 "Stratosphere" Arkhipenko flew to a height of 21,000 metres (63,000-feet). The plane shown

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Bus driver shot: The driver of a bus with operating links to the strike-plagued Greyhound Lines Inc. was shot by a passing motorist on a highway late Saturday, authorities said.

The driver was taken by helicopter to a hospital, but his injuries did not appear life-threatening, hospital spokesman Wayne Wood said.

No passengers were injured. Greyhound spokesman George Gravley said.

Gravley described the bus as belonging to an independent company but operating on a Greyhound route with Greyhound passengers. (AP)

Mom has one twin, other delayed: A 24-year-old woman who was expecting twins in July has delivered one baby, but will have to wait on the other.

In a rare birth doctors say was one of just 14 cases reported nationally, Donna Krasenics delivered a 5.5-pound (2.6 kilogramme) baby girl, Shakoorah, at Crawford Long Hospital on Thursday. 15 weeks premature.

Shakoorah was listed in critical condition in Crawford Long's Intensive Care Unit Saturday. Her mother was in good condition.

Doctors were able to stop Mrs Krasenics' labour with the second baby, and hospital officials said she will remain in bed until her second child is delivered. (AP)

Club fire victims flown home: The bodies of 50 of the 87 people killed in a fire at an illegal social club were loaded onto a cargo plane at Kennedy Airport on Saturday for a late-night flight to Honduras, a nation in mourning.

At a brief memorial service in the huge hangar to which the caskets had come, some in hearses, others stacked on flatbed trucks, Deputy Mayor Bill Lynch said New York City would "do all possible to make sure this will never happen again."

"These young people came to this great city of ours seeking hope and opportunity, and now they leave like this," Lynch said, gesturing toward the long row of caskets. "The bodies lying here before us say we've got to do more. We've got to do more to make sure this doesn't happen again." (AP)

Fuel spill threatens water supplies: A landside-damaged petroleum pipeline sent an 8-mile-long (12.8 kilometre-long) slick down the Allegheny River on Saturday, in Freeport, Pennsylvania threatening water supplies for more than 100,000 people, authorities said.

Fumes from the spill forced the evacuation of 100 people.

Heavy rain Friday apparently caused the landside that cracked the pipeline the same day, said Ray Haase Jr of Buckeye Pipeline Co.

About 75,000 gallons of a 50-50 mixture of diesel and heating oil leaked into Knapp Run Creek, then flowed into the Allegheny about five miles north of Freeport, said Haase. The creek joins the Allegheny about 30 miles (48 kilometres) north of Pittsburgh. (AP)

Military copter shot: Police tried to negotiate their way onto a Mohawk Indian settlement where they believe shots were fired at a military helicopter, but Indian leaders have insisted no outsiders would set foot on their land.

Both sides patrolled blockades Saturday on the four roads leading into the Ganienke Mohawk territory on the Canadian border.

State police set up the roadblocks Friday after a Vermont National Guard helicopter on an emergency medical flight was hit by three bullets, forcing it to land in a field on Indian land.

A civilian doctor suffered a gunshot wound in the right arm, and was listed in good condition (UPI).

TV-Marti stops telecasts: The United States ceased beaming Spanish-language TV-Marti test telecasts to Cuba Saturday morning, the official Cuban News Agency Prensa Latina said.

Prensa Latina, monitored in Mexico City, quoted an official Cuban source as saying that the TV-Marti signal, started on a test basis earlier in the week, was not received Saturday.

The so-called TV-Marti was absent, but the reasons are still unknown, Prensa Latina said.

It could not be immediately confirmed in Washington whether the telecasts had been cut off Saturday morning. (UPI)

Major rebels open fire: Major rebels of the Sandinista National Liberation Front opened fire Saturday on supporters of presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa at his local campaign headquarters in the Andean city of La Oroya, killing one and wounding 12, police said.

Discovering the rebels had been there, Vargas Llosa, a novelist, was threatened dozens of attacks this week in an effort to sabotage the April 8 general elections. The rebels have threatened to kill anyone who votes.

Vargas Llosa, a novelist, is the front-running candidate for president. (AP)

Priest jailed for sedition diary: A Kenyan priest was jailed for six years for writing unspecified sedition material in a desk diary, local newspapers reported Saturday in Nairobi. His prosecutor alleged church groups in and outside Kenya were plotting to undermine the government.

The Rev. Lawford Ndage Imende of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa pleaded guilty to the charges of writing documents, the prosecutor described as "highly seditious and aimed at destabilising the government," the Daily Standard said.

Deputy public prosecutor Bernard Chege told the court Imende, under police custody, had acknowledged there were churches and individuals channeling money to Kenyan churches to destabilise the government.

"Some of the sermons delivered in those churches were part of an orchestrated move to undermine the Kenya Government," Chunga added. (UPI)

L



Skull from a mass grave

A soldier of East German National People's Army (NVA) holds a skull which he dug out from a mass grave in a pine forest near the former Nazi concentration camp of Sachsenhausen on Friday. Local people say the mass grave could contain hundreds of Germans shot by Soviet troops after World War II. (Reuter wirephoto)

Elections in Romania

Parties align

BUCHAREST, Romania, April 1, (AP): Three of Romania's leading opposition parties formed an alliance yesterday to compete in the May 20 general elections, the country's first balloting in 43 years.

The alliance combines the centrist National Liberal Party, the Social Democrats and the National Peasant Party, which together dominated Romanian politics prior to the 1947 communist takeover.

Radiu Campeanu, president of the centrist National Liberal Party, said the three parties would co-operate in an effort to win a majority in the elections and, if they were victorious, would consider forming a coalition government.

Other smaller parties with similar political platforms are welcome to join the alliance, he told a news conference. But Campeanu said he "could not see how a coalition government could ever be formed with the National Salvation Front," currently the dominant political force in Romania.

Campeanu also announced he would become the National Liberal Party's presidential candidate — and presumably the coalition's candidate — after complying with legal formalities.

"According to electoral laws, I will have to gather the signatures of 100,000 supporters to qualify for formal inclusion in the official list of candidates," he noted.

Campeanu said the alliance would "seek the presence of foreign observers to oversee the elections" and ensure fairness.

The coalition's main opposition is likely to be the National Salvation Front, which governed the country after communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown in December and still commands majority support, according to public opinion polls.

Greeks to go to polls third time in a year

Bid to break govt's deadlock

ATHENS, April 1, (AP): Against a backdrop of rising terrorism and dire warnings of economic doom, Greeks will go to the polls for a third time in a year in an effort to break the government's political deadlock.

But pollsters predict the April 8, national elections will end like the ones last June and November — with no party winning the right to govern the country already suffering from a year of indecisiveness.

Weak coalition governments formed after the elections in June and November have been unable, or unwilling, to deal forcefully with questions of foreign, domestic and economic policy.

The European Economic Community says Greece is in danger of bankruptcy and says it will not bale out Athens because the country breached the austerity terms of a 1985 loan. Some Greek officials and economists fear the country may be forced to surrender some of its economic sovereignty and turn, for the first time, to the International Monetary Fund for help.

"Without a strong government, we are heading for economic disaster," said Stelios Argyros, president of the powerful federation of Greek industries. He said Greece needs a government strong enough to make necessary but unpopular decisions.

Greek premier fires intelligence chief

ATHENS, April 1, (AP): Premier Xenophon Zolotas fired Greece's intelligence chief yesterday following allegations that the intelligence agency was jamming the broadcasts of a leftist television station.

Zolotas summoned National Information Service chief Dimitris Angelopoulos to an emergency meeting yesterday after two intelligence agents were arrested Friday night and accused of jamming the Channel 29 TV station, which supports socialist candidates in next Sunday's general election.

Angelopoulos arrived at the meeting two hours late and was dismissed.

"The measure was judged necessary because

First Soviet non-communist party founded

MOSCOW, April 1, (UPI): The first non-communist party in Soviet history, the Liberal Democrats, was founded yesterday.

But a bevy of new parties, including monarchists and anarchists, is waiting in the wings in accordance with the March decision of the communists to abandon their monopoly on power.

A total of 215 delegates representing most of the 15 republics are attending the Congress of the Liberal Democratic Party of the Soviet Union.

"Its founders say this is the first nation-wide

Congress of a non-communist party in Soviet history," the official Tass news agency said.

It elected as its leader, a Moscow lawyer, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, 42, who said the party is against building any specific social system, favours private property and a market system instead of rigid Soviet central planning.

Non-communist parties ceased to exist in Russia in January 1918 after the founder of the Soviet state Vladimir Lenin banned all parties except his Bolshevik communists.

Although some members of the Czarist- and revolutionary-era parties, the Menshevik communists and social revolutionaries, lingered on after January 1918, they never again held a Congress.

Lenin's successor Josef Stalin physically liquidated the members of these parties.

But under Gorbachev's reforms, many of the exterminated parties have reappeared including the constitutional Democrats, or Kadets, as they

were called, the most liberal party in the history of the Russian empire and early post-revolutionary period.

But the most viable grouping appears to be the Social Democratic Association, which brought tens of thousands into streets of Moscow for a pro-democracy rally in early February. A second SDA-organised rally on Feb 25 put thousands more people onto the streets in a score of cities across the country despite an official scare campaign to warn participants off.

Armenian-Azeri fighting continues

Troops fail to stop clashes

MOSCOW, April 1, (Reuters): Soviet troops dispatched to separate warring Armenians and Azerbaijanis have failed to stamp out bloody clashes on the frontier between their two Soviet republics, journalists in the region said yesterday.

Detachments, rushed to the border on Friday from the Azerbaijani and Armenian capitals, succeeded in damping down the fighting, but not in stopping all the shooting and cross-border raids, he said.

The Armenian and Azeri press agencies, contacted by telephone, said a number of people had been killed in the past few days, but reliable figures were unavailable.

At least 13 people were killed in the previous week.

Ethnic tension with Armenia dominated a plenary session of Azerbaijan's Communist Party leadership yesterday, the Soviet News Agency Tass said.

Fighting in the Nakhichevan enclave, sandwiched between Armenia and Turkey, and on other border points had worsened in the past few days with deaths and heavy economic damage, the meeting was told.

Armenpress said women and children had been evacuated from some Azeri villages near the border.

Le Pen chosen to head National

NICE, April 1, (AP): Jean-Marie Le Pen whipped his followers into a frenzy of applause and singing yesterday, promising them that their extreme-right National Front Party stands on the threshold of real political power.

The 1,600 delegates to the 8th party chose Le Pen by cheers and handclapping to lead the party from the sidelines of single-issue politics to what they hope will be victory in legislative elections in 1993.

"If I advance, follow me; if I die, avenge me; if I shirk, kill me," the former paratrooper told the delegates. "We are no longer a tiny movement. We are today the leading political movement in France."

Le Pen founded the anti-immigration party in 1972 and achieved global notoriety in 1987 when he called the Nazi holocaust a "detail of history."

In a 90-minute speech punctuated by frequent applause and chants, Le Pen accused both the governing socialists and traditional conservative parties of "political AIDS."

He hammered away at a favourite theme: That other politicians turn a blind eye to immigration, thereby stoking racial pressures that will soon be insoluble except through violence.

After the speech and Le Pen's reelection in the vast, flag-draped amphitheater on the French Riviera, the crowd broke into the "ode of joy" from Beethoven's ninth symphony.

Earlier, about 700 people prayed outside the palace of justice for the 6 million Jews killed during the holocaust to protest the attendance at the congress of Franz Schoenhuber, leader of West Germany's far-right Republican Party.

Schoenhuber belonged to the Waffen SS during World War II. His party and the National Front form an alliance at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The National Front won 12 per cent on the vote in presidential elections in 1988 based its anti-immigration platform. Its support is strongest among white voters in areas where large numbers of North African and black immigrants live.

"We are the expression of the French people who want to become once again their own masters," said Bruno Megret, the party's second in command. "We will be in power before the end of the decade."

The National Front hopes to broaden its platform to include ecological issues in an effort to woo rural voters. The party recently gained its first seat in the 571-seat National Assembly. It held 35 seats until electoral changes in 1988 left the party without representation.

The congress comes as leaders of France's mainstream conservative parties met near Paris to work out a common position on immigration ahead of round-table talks with the Socialist government on racism next week.

The governments also were unwilling to negotiate a new military base agreement with the United States or answer a US extradition request for Mohammed Rasmi, a Palestinian wanted for the 1982 bombing of a Pan American jetliner that killed one person. In the meantime, Washington simplified the bases problem by unilaterally deciding to close two of its four bases in Greece.

Angelopoulos showed inexcusable negligence in the performance of his duties by not immediately briefing his superior, in this case the prime minister, who had sought him repeatedly and with every means at his disposal," government spokesman Prokopis Pavlopoulos said.

The Socialists accused the conservative New Democracy Party of being behind the jamming. The conservatives denied involvement and called for an official inquiry into the matter.

Channel 29, one of several commercial stations operating without a licence, aired footage of two men being arrested on Mount Hymettos near Athens.

Angelopoulos arrived at the meeting two hours late and was dismissed.

"The measure was judged necessary because

Lithuania rejects Gorbachev appeal

'Moscow demanding impossible'

VILNIUS, USSR, April 1, (AP): A Lithuanian leader has rejected an appeal by Mikhail Gorbachev in which the Soviet President said Moscow would not negotiate with the republic until it signs an independence declaration.

Gorbachev, in a message directed at independence activists in the Baltic republic, warned yesterday of "grave consequences" if they refuse.

In Vilnius, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis dismissed the appeal, telling reporters the Soviet leader was "demanding impossible things."

In a television appearance earlier in the evening, Landsbergis said he found Gorbachev's speeches "extremely surprising" and mocked Gorbachev's suggestion that the independence plea could destabilize the entire Soviet Union.

"As far as I know, we have not sent paratroopers to the Soviet Union nor are we doing any harm whatever to President Gorbachev's country," he said.

In a toughly worded, 18-line statement issued in Moscow and addressed to the republic's Parliament, Gorbachev charged Lithuanian leaders with "openly challenging and insulting" the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev said Lithuania had chosen a "runaway" path that "will only lead to a dead end."

It was his first formal statement on the issue since March 11, when the Baltic state's Parliament sparked open confrontation with the Kremlin by voting to secede from the Soviet Union.

Failure to spread the new wealth created by a four-year economic boom.

In the convention's opening address, Fraga pledged unconditional support for Aznar, saying "this convention will confirm the consolidation of our political force — its renewal and rejuvenation — as the real and serious alternative to govern Spain."

Aznar, a handsome man with dark hair, a thick moustache and the trademark boyish grin, is assured of winning over

Soviet republics, which supply the Baltic state with much of its oil, gas and other essential products.

In Vilnius, uniformed men were reported patrolling the printing plant for the republic's main newspaper and the chief prosecutor's office. Both buildings were seized during the night in Moscow's latest move to assert control.

The Lithuanians have not budged and Landsbergis said they would press on with their independence drive:

"We have no sources for stopping this. We can work, live normally and wait. We must be tough and have tenacity. We have this in our character."

Failure to spread the new wealth created by a four-year economic boom.

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the convention's opening address, Fraga pledged unconditional support for Aznar, saying "this convention will confirm the consolidation of our political force — its renewal and rejuvenation — as the real and serious alternative to govern Spain."

Aznar had been the party's vice president since last summer and was its candidate for prime minister in the Oct 29 general elections, when it won 107 of the 350 seats in the key lower house of Parliament. That was an increase of two seats from the previous election in 1986.



Obsessed fan

An obsessed fan Joni Penn armed with a rifle broke into the home of actress Sharon Gless, of the television series 'Cagney and Lacey', on Friday and threatened to kill her. Gless was not at home when the incident occurred. At bottom Penn is taken into custody by Los Angeles police. (Reuter wirephoto)

Boys' leader Aznar takes reins of Spanish Conservatives

SEVILLE, Spain, April 1, (AP): A 37-year-old tax inspector with a boyish grin became the leader of Spain's Conservatives yesterday as the opposition party met to endorse a sweeping generational change and seek to govern by 1993.

Jose Maria Aznar, 37, the former head of the Castile-Leon regional government, was unopposed and won backing from 97 per cent of the 2,859 delegates to the Popular Party's two-day convention. He succeeds the party's founder, 67-year-old Manuel Fraga.

Aznar, making his speech a day ahead of schedule, told delegates he would seek "confidence, rigour and unity from the party and encourage a change in morale from one of resistance to one of victory."

His rise comes at a time when the ruling Socialists led by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez appear to be on the defensive. The Socialists have been losing public support over allegations of corruption and

failure to spread the new wealth created by a four-year economic boom.

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Special Ramadan Offer

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Free trade zone may be established soon

Private company to operate stores

A RESPONSIBLE source at the Ministry of Finance said that a law on the establishment of a free trade zone will be issued during this year and is awaiting approval.

The official said that a new system of customs storage was established which is similar to the system of free zones. According to the system, the importer keeps his

imports in the general customs stores, and he has the right to market them either in the local market or to re-export them. The normal procedures are not applicable on these goods — except those related to rules of the Arab Office for Boycott and those related to prohibited goods.

The storage period at these stores is one

complete year, which can be extended for another year. The stores will be operated by a private company and importers will not need to go to the government authorities to fulfill formalities. Thus, the customer will be provided a certificate of origin without the need for approaching the ministry for the purpose of re-exporting

his goods. This procedure is a step to issue the free trade zone law, the source said.

The government had undertaken a technical study in 1961 that recommended the establishment of a free area at Kuwait port, the source said and the present move is in relation to that study.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries. Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4847495.

I WORKED as an accountant with a company from June 1979 until Jan 1990, when my services were terminated by my company. I have decided to return to my country for good. Am I entitled to get an air ticket from my company?

H. Mathias

ACCORDING to 87/1989 social affairs regulations, article 20 & 21, an employee is entitled to get an air ticket on final cancellation of visa. You can ask your company for this, if there is no provision in the contract saying otherwise. All the terms of the contract, whatever they may be, must be followed. It is clearly mentioned in the No. 87/1989 rules that an employer must deposit an air ticket and an employee's passport at the time of final cancellation of a visa.

I HAVE been in Kuwait since 1983 on a working visa. Last year, I transferred my visa to another company which stamped my residence, which expires this month. My services were terminated two months ago. Now, my previous employers are not giving a release although I have found another job. Can the company refuse to give me the release even though I have submitted a letter from my new employers? Please advise. An employee

YOU CAN approach the social affairs ministry to file a complaint against the company, asking them for the release papers. A notice through a court can also be given to get the release. And, you can also file a compensation case if the company did not give the release within a stipulated period. You can also claim an air ticket to leave the country for final cancellation of a visa and try to re-enter the country on a new visa.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1970 and have been employed as foreman in three different companies. In 1986, I had to cancel my visa and return to my country. I came back to Kuwait in 1989 with a new visa. I wish to know if I am eligible to get the exemption prescribed in Article 17 of the residence law regarding changing residence if the present employer gives me a release?

N.M. Nair

ARTICLE 17 exempts people who have lived in Kuwait, and worked here, for a continuous period of ten years on a work permit, No. 18 visa. As you cut your term of stay, you are not eligible under the rule because you did not complete 10 years. I suggest you go to the social affairs ministry, who might be in a better position to help you on the matter.

I HAVE been working as an accounts clerk; I have also been assigned another job by the same company through written orders but I am not paid for this job for the last one year. I am working with the same company and did not complain for fear of losing my job. In case, if I leave the company or my services are terminated, can I take the matter to any authority to receive my dues? Is there any time bar and will I have to bear heavy expenditure to take the matter to court?

F.G.V.

YES, you can take the matter to the ministry of social affairs. If you file a case while working, there is a possibility that you can be fired; it is better to keep the matter pending till the end of the contract, and then ask for your dues at the end of the appropriate time. You can claim all the rights, overtime work done and any other rightful dues. And the claim must be made within a year of ending the contract. The period begins on the day of termination of the contract.

WHAT should be the mode of action as per the labour law in case the employee has to resign because of salary reduction?

B. Prasad

IF THE salary has been reduced, you can approach the social affairs ministry and report the matter to end the contract, and you have the right to claim all the benefits. If the social affairs ministry cannot resolve the dispute, they will advise you to file a court case.

IN AN establishment where Kuwaiti partner is the financier and expatriate the manager on a monthly salary in addition to 30 per cent partner in profits, what type of legal

contract do you advise be made under the law which will protect the interest of the expatriate at the time of annual account settlement?

M. Kalia

I CAN'T answer this question in a newspaper column, because it requires a whole news page to cover. It is not only a matter of 30 per cent only; several aspects are taken into consideration. I suggest you hire a lawyer, and pay him his fees to give you appropriate advice.

I HAVE been employed in a reputed company since 1982. We worked five days weeks and were paid overtime for working on Thursdays. Now, the overtime payment has been suspended. If I resign, what benefits am I entitled to? I have not signed a new contract each year. If I refuse to work on Thursday, what action can the company take?

Almadi employee

1. ACCORDING to your contract, article 10 the weekend holiday falls on Fridays only. This means that there are six working days. If you were working for six days, it was up to the company to pay overtime. As you have been working since 1982, I suggest you file a case against the company, and the court will decide if there has been a change in the contract or not. Your contract, however, clearly states that you have only one weekly day off.

2. If you resign, according to the Kuwaiti labour law, you are entitled to get 7.5 days salary for the first five years, and half a month pay for the subsequent years.

Regarding the contract you signed, and if there is no other contract changing it, the first contract is held valid. A contract is renewed for an unlimited period if an employee continues to work in the same company.

3. According to the labour law, you must work on Thursday as it is not a holiday for you; if the company asks you to work, you can't refuse, even if it is an official holiday, because the job needs to be done. If you do, it means that you are disobeying, and an employer can use this against you to terminate your contract, according to article 55, part b. of the private sector labour law.

Campaign to help Palestinians in distress

AL MUNASARAH Charitable Committee for Palestine and Lebanon will launch a charitable campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan to explain the dilemma of the Palestinian people.

In an interview with a local daily, Ahmed Al Falah of the committee said that this month constitutes a month of fasting and Jihad and his committee has opened the door to philanthropists to extend necessary support to the Palestinian people through charitable projects adopted by the committee.

These include the fasting Zakat and funds Zakat in addition to any other aims and added that these funds will be distributed to the needy people in Palestine who are being subjected to an economic blockade and a war of annihilation by Israel.

The committee has adopted the breakfast meals project where the committee has defined the value of each meal as five hundred fils.

Orphans

Meanwhile, the official said that the committee during this month will be concentrating on the orphan project which aims at patronising needy orphans in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. Presently, the committee patronises about 2,000 orphans. According to this patronage, each orphan in Jordan or Palestine is entitled to KD15, while in Lebanon they are entitled to KD10 each.

In light of the increasing exodus of the Soviet Jews to Palestine, the committee decided to set up Al Muhagreen and Al Ansar charitable projects to support the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to assist the move to dispel them from their homeland.

He said that the project aims at building bridges between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the people in the GCC countries. One complete family will be patronised with an amount of KD25 per month, the official said.



Roumi retires

The Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, Dhari Al Othman, has said that the ministry is preparing a new payment scale for judges, consultants and prosecutors in co-operation with the Civil Service Commission and the scale will be completed and approved shortly.

Othman, speaking at the farewell party held at Kuwait International Hotel to honour the under-secretary of Ministry of Justice, Nasser Al Roumi, on the occasion of his retirement, added that the minis-

try extends every assistance to solve all problems that face the judicial staff. The minister praised the under-secretary for his sacrifice and honest performance during his 35 years of service.

The audience then heard speeches for Judge Abdulla Al Essa on behalf of judicial staff. Roumi then received gifts and memorial shields from the justice minister and senior officials of the ministry. Who represented all staff of the ministry. Photo shows Roumi (right), receiving a gift from

Mohammed Al Rifa'i

Prices shoot up in Ramadan rush

Fresh tomatoes cost 400pc more

PRICES of most commodities in Kuwait's markets have shown a sharp increase to coincide with the holy month of Ramadan. Prices of some commodities, especially fresh vegetables and fruits, increased by over 100 per cent. Observers in the market stressed that the price hike was intended to exploit the huge rush by consumers shopping for the holy month of Ramadan. The observers emphasised that the intention by merchants to achieve "quick" profits at the cost of poor consumers by also exploiting a holy occasion, is entirely illegal.

According to some unofficial statistical reports, the maximum price hike was in the fresh tomatoes which shot up by 400 per cent. Only in the past 10 days, dairy produce prices increased by 5 to 41 per cent, milk from 12 to 33 per cent, yeast 31 per cent, tinned fruits 16 per cent, jelly 15 per cent, tooth paste 45 per cent, ghee 32 per cent, beef 35 per cent, soups 80 per cent, fresh vegetables from 25 to 100 per cent and many others.

A case of fresh tomatoes which was sold at about 500 fils just one week before Ramadan, is now being sold at KD2.500. A kilo of tomatoes fetches over 600 fils. The price hike also hit fruits, specially fresh, and the price ranged from 10 per cent upward.

Cucumbers, a commodity greatly needed by consumers during the holy month for salad, shot up very sharply and a case is now sold at KD3.500.

Report

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khaled, who last week partly put the blame on consumers for the price hike, has now asked for an urgent report on the prices of foodstuffs and agricultural products, according to an Arabic daily.

An official source at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

said yesterday that the state has provided many of the essential commodities to the consumers at reasonable and fixed prices and no side can surpass those prices. Such commodities include the rationed sugar, rice, milk powder in addition to fresh milk and others.

Director-general of the Com-

sumer Co-operative Societies, Abdullatif Al Khatera and the Kuwait is an importing country. We import most of our necessities from outside. Thus, when added, the prices of most commodities depend upon world market prices. He said that this year, there has been no significant price hike and the current price mainly attributed to the increase in international prices.

He said that the unionised workers approve any increase in the prices of commodities during the holy month. He stressed that the current prices are normal and within the reach of majority of consumers.

Grocery and other similar

shops also exploited the situation and further hiked prices. Groceries were selling tomatoes at KD1 per kilo. Head of the shop inspection division at the Consumers' Protection Department, Jamal Al Rashed said that their role is to interfere in case of exploitation by salesmen in accordance with the law. He said that exploitation here means increasing the prices artificially to exploit a shortage in the commodity in the market.

He said that the division also watches the implementation of official decisions on the prices of some commodities and services like meat, water, cold drinks and others. But Rashed commented on the current price hike said, "the official sides do not interfere when prices go down and merchants may lose, why should we interfere when prices go up?"

He said that the whole matter is supply and demand. Consumers should be more aware and should not go for the commodity when prices go up.

Demand

Chairman of the Agricultural Production Societies, Barrak Al Noun, said that the theory of supply and demand is the main factor for determining the prices of certain commodities. He said that if the consumers feel that the price of one certain commodity has been hiked, they should search for alternative commodities or stop buying that commodity until prices are lowered.

Supply

He said that the division also monitors the implementation of official decisions on the prices of some commodities and services like meat, water, cold drinks and others. But Rashed commented on the current price hike said, "the official sides do not interfere when prices go down and merchants may lose, why should we interfere when prices go up?"

He said that the whole matter is supply and demand. Consumers should be more aware and should not go for the commodity when prices go up.

Municipality motivation

EMPLOYEES at Kuwait Municipality entitled to an incentive allowance will be given a financial reward of two per cent of the value of any fines collected on reports filed by them, subject to a maximum of KD10 per infringement.

The decision was recently endorsed by Kuwait's Civil Service Council at the request of the acting director-general of Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali. The decision includes a technical allowance to be given to employees of supervisory posts at the food department, cleanliness department, sign control bakers inspectors and barber saloons supervisors at the municipality.

Commercial licences to be reviewed

THE assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rasheed Al Mijren has said that the ministry began a comprehensive field survey of all existing commercial licences with a view to cancelling those not in use.

He told a local daily that the inspection and location of unused licences is currently in progress in the Jahra area, and that a number of them have as a result been cancelled. The process will later spread to Farwaniya and Kuwait City, to be followed by others, and an investigation will be carried out.

Facilities

The availability of computer facilities and the completion of such an operation, the official said and added that there are hundreds of commercial licences issued to individuals since 1965.

He said that the external centres of the ministry are carrying out the task of cancellation of unused licences within three months. There are 52,175, and that the reason for this inspection and cancellation is that a great number of these licences are used for trading purposes.

A total of 5,448 licences were issued for ready-made clothes and 4,663 were issued to groceries.



Children addressed

Dr Javed Iqbal addressed during his recent visit to Kuwait a group of children and their parents at the residence of Iqbal Latif at a function organised by Approb, to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution. The children asked interesting questions on the Pakistan movement and were joined by more than 100 guests.

High dowries to end: statistics

By Sayed Othman

HIGH DOWRIES in Kuwait will soon be an issue of the past, according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Justice.

High dowries had played a negative role in the past and had resulted in Kuwaiti youths either marrying non-Kuwaiti girls or delaying marriage until they had secured the required funds.

Recent statistics indicated that 24 Kuwaiti girls had married for a dowry of KD one against eight who had dowries amounting to as high as KD15,000.

Last year there were 10,108 marriages registered among Kuwaitis and expatriates — registering an increase of 103 compared to the previous year. Of these, 4,851 were among Kuwaitis with an increase of 346. However, marriages among stateless people had retreated, while expatriate marriages had shown an increase.

Statistics said that Kuwaiti women married either to Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis amounted to 5,559 — an increase of 213 compared to the

previous year. About 708 Kuwaiti women had married non-Kuwaitis — some of them stateless.

A total of 4,549 non-Kuwaiti women of whom 1,050 married Kuwaiti men were also registered.

Statistics said that 241 women married for a dowry less than KD10,000, 159 accepted dowries less than KD2,000, 1,939 less than KD3,000. However, five Iraqi women, one Saudi, eight Jordanian and Palestinians, three Syrians, six Lebanese and two Asians married last year with dowry over KD15,000 each. Another Iraqi woman, six Saudis, one Yemeni, 47 Jordanians and Palestinians, five Syrians, 33 Lebanese three Egyptians and three Asians were married for dowries over KD10,000. There were 1203 Arab and Asian women who got married last year for dowries ranging between KD5,000 and KD10,000.

Palestinians and Jordanian marriages topped the list, followed by Kuwaitis, Asians, Iraqis, Saudis, Egyptians, Syrians, Lebanese, Yemenis, Americans and Africans.

Specialised hospitals planned around Kuwait

Private sector involvement sought

THE Council of Ministers has reportedly approved in principle the allocation of government-owned sites to set up special-purpose hospitals in different locations in the country.

A local daily has said that the council required the relevant government personnel to carry out the necessary co-ordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Finance's Government

Property and Services Department on the manner of distribution of the proposed sites. These sites are to be offered for sale to those wishing to undertake the construction of these hospitals.

The director of the Planning Department at Kuwait Municipality Mosa Al Sarraf has said that the sites had already been allocated in the existing investment areas, where hospitals and specialised clin-

ics would be set up. Facilities to be constructed must be housed in the right environment, which require the presence of parks, entertainment grounds for patients and others.

He told a local daily that there have been many requests for the construction of private hospitals and specialised clinics, and that the provision of the right sites for these vital facilities would be a great invest-

ment opportunity. The main stress would be laid on quality rather than quantity.

He said that the department of government property and services at the Finance Ministry would define the prices according to the going rates in each of the location designated, adding that the government is deeply aware of the need to involve the private sector in the implementation of such projects.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives

KUWAIT, April 1. (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received in audience at Bayan Palace, United Kingdom's Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Weston on the occasion of assuming his post.

Planning meeting

KUWAIT, April 1. (Kuna): Member of the Supreme Planning Council Ahmad Saad Al Jasser yesterday chaired a meeting of the planning committees to discuss the draft long-term plan of 1990-2015.

The meeting was attended by Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Abdullah Al Awadi and the work teams who explained projects included in the long-term plan.

Secretary-general of the council Fuad Mulla Hussein said the sub-committees of the council held a joint meeting to discuss the 1990-2015 plan which was recently referred to it by the cabinet.

Hussein told Kuna that the conferees had agreed to hold another meeting for more talks on the long-term plan.

Gorbachev message

DOHA, April 1. (Kuna): A verbal message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was conveyed Saturday to the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Qatari News Agency reported.

The agency said the message was conveyed by the Soviet ambassador in Doha and that it includes the Soviet position toward the Middle East crisis and bilateral relations.

Campaign

KUWAIT, April 1. (Kuna): Two Kuwaiti dailies today blasted the anti-Iraq campaign in Britain and the US, affirming that Iraq has the right to acquire any advanced technology to ensure its self-defence.

Daily Al Seyassah wondered why Iraq has been singled out for an extensive armament campaign while Israel which has been arming itself to the teeth has been doing so without any objection from the worried West.

For its part, another daily said that the alleged plot to smuggle nuclear triggering devices and naval equipment to Iraq was nothing but a reaction to the execution of Farzabid Bazof in Baghdad for spying.

The paper declared "charging some Iraqi passport holders with smuggling prohibited material does not make a very strong case against Iraq."

Saudi minister

AMMAN, April 1. (Kuna): Saudi Minister of Education Abdul Aziz Al Khater arrived here yesterday for a brief visit to Jordan, during which he will convey a message from King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia to the Jordanian monarch, King Hussein.

Khater did not indicate the contents of the message.

Porno games

A LOCAL daily has reported that the common children computer games "Astar" involve pornographic bonuses to players who can outwit the computer and win continuously.

The paper said that the bonuses involved a series of pictures taken in the nude in different postures of world famous actresses and that the winning player would be able to press the bonus key and get a pornographic picture of his favourite actress printed out for him.

It is noteworthy that this advantage is only accessible to experienced players who can win all games continuously over a period estimated at one and a half to two hours of successful playing.



Ramadan greetings

Director of the General Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul Hameed Al Hajji congratulated police traffic officers on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. He received the heads of departments and various sections of the Traffic Department. He told officers that Interior Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah has agreed to grant financial gratuities to policemen for excellent services. Picture shows Hajji greeting officers.

Customs to facilitate procedures, says Ghanim

New warehouses to be built

DIRECTOR General of the General Customs Department Ibrahim Abdullah Al Ghanim has said that the new ministerial decision no. 3 for 1990 on customs data and systems falls within the framework of national efforts to activate the local economic situation by simplifying procedures, and facilitating the processing of transactions and saving time and effort.

He said that the existing customs law basically derives from the Arab unified customs law, while the ministerial decision defined the mode of application, adding that the customs data and regulation were governed under decision 152 for 1980 and the finance minister's decision no. 14 for 1984 on the regulation of customs clearance.

Transit merchandise has been divided into direct transit goods, which would be permitted to stay in the country for 48 hours from the date of its entry from the country's border and goods of indirect transit and this could stay in the country no more than five days, the official said.

He said that to meet the requirements of public interest special forms will be prepared for goods imported into the country at the value not exceeding KD 500 and that these forms would speed up the process of clearance and insurances.

Personal luggage will be exempted from customs tax in order to facilitate the passage of people into the country, but personal effects however still have to be inspected to insure that no commercial intentions are involved in the import of clothes.

Exemption

Personal luggage with value exceeding KD 500 will be admitted into the country under the temporary admission clause, and the dept has decided to make substantial amendments into the system governing the temporary admission of goods to cope with new developments, particularly the admission of equipment and machines by contrac-

tors executing projects in the country.

Ghanim said that the existing goods allowance rate has been reduced for goods admitted for temporary period in the country by 0.001 percent of the total value of the goods, and the allowance would cover a period of three months only regardless of how long the goods will remain in the country, unlike the system operated before which charged high fees under decision No. 32/82.

He pointed out that ministries and other government agencies were exempted from paying the insurance value on goods imported in accordance with this system, unlike the decision No. 152/80 which stipulated that the government agencies pay high insurance amounts.

Warehouses

Under the new decision the department could build public customs warehouses to be run under the supervision of the customs authorities and the agencies involved in investing these facilities. Consequently the importer could store his goods, whether bound for the local market or not meant to be admitted into the country and will have the freedom to re-export these goods or admit them into the country for local use, without having to face the usual customs procedures and red tape.

He said that a ministerial decision would be issued to define these warehouse and storage period and whether this period is extendable or not. Another type of warehouse would be designated for importers to enable them to release their goods after submitting the necessary justifications to customs authorities without having to bear the involved cost of demurrage.

The period of storage in these private warehouses will be six months to be extended on request, against a cash insurance amount paid by the importer equivalent to the value of due customs tax. Ghanim said

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NEVER trust a man who speaks well of everybody — John Churton Collins, English literary critic (1846-1908).

Arab-American study

'Recognise state of Palestine'

WASHINGTON, (Kuna): A clear majority of Arab-Americans believe strongly that the US government should recognize the state of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as declared by the Palestine National Council.

Arab-Americans also want the US administration to work to bring about an international peace conference on the Middle East, sponsor direct negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and use its diplomatic and economic influence to bring Israel to the negotiating table.

These facts and many others emerge from the first massive scientific study of the attitudes of more than two and a half million-strong Arab-American community.

The survey was conducted by Dr Baha Abu Laban, a professor of sociology at the University of Alberta, in Canada and author of several books and studies.

Study

The massive study was organized by the major Arab-American organization, the American Arab-Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which this weekend held its tenth anniversary convention here in Washington, where the study was released for the first time.

Based on the result of the survey, Arab-Americans who were polled also hold strongly to the opinion that Lebanon should be reunited under a new representative government and that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from the country.

Also, Lebanon certainly needs humanitarian aid and Arab-Americans would like the US government to respond more generously to this need.

The survey was based on a total of 2,626 completed questionnaires of a representative sample of ADC members in both the US and Canada.

It reveals some interesting facts about the Arab-American community itself. For example, 71 per cent of those who responded were males. Approximately 59 per cent were born in US, 33 per cent were naturalized US citizens, and the balance — 8 per cent — were classified as permanent residents (green card holders) or temporary visitors.

In terms of Arab country of origin, about 36 per cent originated from Palestine, 33 per cent from Lebanon, 16 per cent from Syria, 5 per cent from Iraq, 4 per cent from Egypt, 3 per cent from Jordan, and the remainder or 3 per cent from the Arab states in the Gulf region or North Africa.

The educational background of those surveyed was relatively high, with nearly 8 out of 10 holding a university degree, 14 per cent had some college education. About 45 per cent reported an income of over \$50,000 a year and a further 44 per cent were in the \$20,000-50,000 range.

ADC's survey covered quite a variety of issues of concern to Arab-Americans and to their umbrella organizations, including opinions on social status, political participation, media exposure and media coverage of the Middle East, the future of Lebanon and Palestine, selected aspects of US foreign policy, current public issues and the like.

The poll finds that, on the social status of Arab-Americans, the majority believe that stereotyping and discrimination are two major issues they face in the United States.

The media, particularly TV and film productions — are seen to be responsible for the transmission and hence perpetuation of negative images of Arabs. The evidence derived from the survey suggests that Arab-Americans continue to sustain status losses in proportion to anti-Arab sentiments which seem to be prevalent in American society.

The results of the survey further show a high level of Arab-American activism within American politics. Issues of concern to Arab-Americans include what a political candidate's position is on the Middle East as well as domestic economic policies.

This indicates that for Arab-Americans, both issues relating to America, as well as to homeland politics, remain of central concern.

How do Arab-Americans feel about the quality of US media coverage of the Middle East?

The responses show that the sweep majority of the respondents — 91 per cent either strongly agree or agree with the statement that "the media coverage is biased in favour of Israel."

Conversely, an equally high proportion — 92 per cent — either disagree or strongly disagree with the statement that "media coverage is biased in favour of the Palestinians" as the Israelis claim.

But despite their conviction that the US media are biased in favour of Israel, many respondents feel that there has been a qualitative improvement in media coverage of the Middle East in recent years.

They indicated that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Palestinian intifada had played a significant role in bringing about this improvement of the American media's coverage.

On the US attitude towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, 97 per cent of Arab-Americans polled said the US should work to bring about an international peace conference that includes all the parties, including the PLO.

Ninety eight per cent said the US should use its diplomatic and economic influence to pressure Israel into joining negotiations.

And about 8 out of 10 respondents or 79 per cent endorsed the statement that "the US should sponsor direct negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians."

What also emerges from the survey is that the majority of Arab-Americans strongly advocate the exercise of US economic leverage in relation to peace efforts in the Middle East and additionally feel that US aid to Israel should change.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1512 — Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I and Swiss join Holy League against France.
- 1536 — Malmö, Sweden, surrenders to Denmark's King Christian III.
- 1559 — Peace treaty is signed at Cateau-Cambresis between England and France.
- 1580 — Seventh War of Religion breaks out in France.
- 1595 — Spain's King Philip II undertakes to aid Earl of Tyrone's rebellion in Ireland.
- 1667 — France's King Louis XIV signs defensive League of the Rhine with Münster, Neuburg, Brunswick, Hesse-Cassel, Bavaria and Sweden.
- 1699 — British Admiral Benbow is sent to West Indies to gain reparations from Spain for destruction of British ships at Darien.
- 1801 — British fleet under Horatio Nelson is sent to Denmark because of Danish action on Elbe River and is victorious off Copenhagen.
- 1903 — Britain and France refuse to support construction of Baghdad railway.
- 1917 — US president Woodrow Wilson summons special session of Congress to declare war upon Germany.
- 1937 — South Africa prohibits political activity by foreigners in South-West Africa.
- 1947 — UN Security Council appoints US as trustee for Pacific islands formerly under Japanese mandate; Britain refers Palestine question to United Nations.
- 1964 — Yemen charges Britain with air attacks on its territory.
- 1986 — Terrorist bomb rips hole in TWA jetliner over southern Greece, and blast blows a man, woman and child out of the plane to their deaths.
- 1988 — Iraq claims its forces killed thousands of Iranian troops and ovarian bases of Kurdish rebels in mountainous northeast.
- 1989 — Police say more than 50 guerrillas are killed in new round of battles in northern Namibia.

Sajudis fail to do anything right

Nationalist leaders ignore reality

VILNIUS, Lithuania, USSR, (UPI): Lithuania's Sajudis nationalist leaders pursued a brilliant strategy to seize power Feb 24. They have done almost nothing right since.

For one thing, President Vytautas Landsbergis and the other Sajudis leaders now running Lithuania were not prepared to rule when the nationalist-controlled Parliament declared independence March 11.

There was no need for such precipitous action.

After their victory in the Feb 24 elections, the Sajudis forces controlled Parliament. They had a legitimate mandate from the Lithuanian people. They were clearly in control.

But their rush to freedom destroyed their election-won strength nearly overnight.

Their decision to ignore political realities and act on purely moral principles wrought confusion in the Baltic republic and created an unnecessary confrontation with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is now spinning the Lithuanian leadership around like a top.

Lithuanian Communist Party chief Algirdas Brazauskas, the man who should be president in place of Landsbergis, said as much.

"I don't think Gorbachev as a person has bad will towards Lithuania," Brazauskas told reporters recently. "I think our decision on March 11 and our subsequent acts have created this atmosphere in our relations from which I think we should find a way out."

The Sajudis nationalists made their first mistake March 10 when they did not elect Brazauskas president.

Brazauskas, a bear of a man whose political savvy, experience with power and general personal presence dwarfs that of Landsbergis, enjoys immense support among Lithuanians because of his party's decision Dec 20 to break from Moscow and form the first independent republican Communist Party in Soviet history.

With Brazauskas at its head, Lithuania would have presented to Moscow and the world, a true coalition government with a Parliament controlled by principled nationalists and an executive run by a popular communist leader.

Such a government could have pursued a dual-track strategy: holding preliminary secession talks with Moscow while feeling out foreign governments about how much support they would give, if any, to Lithuanian independence — not in principle, but in practice.

That government also might have charted a careful course to full-fledged independence through in-depth assessments of international reactions to various scenarios.

These could have included whether the United States and its allies would recognize a unilateral declaration of independence, whether Western interests would allow immediate disregard for Soviet de facto rule or whether the West only would be able to support and accept a solution negotiated with Moscow.

Instead, Lithuania's new leaders have spent most of the past two weeks performing award-winning imitations of whirling dervishes. To wit:

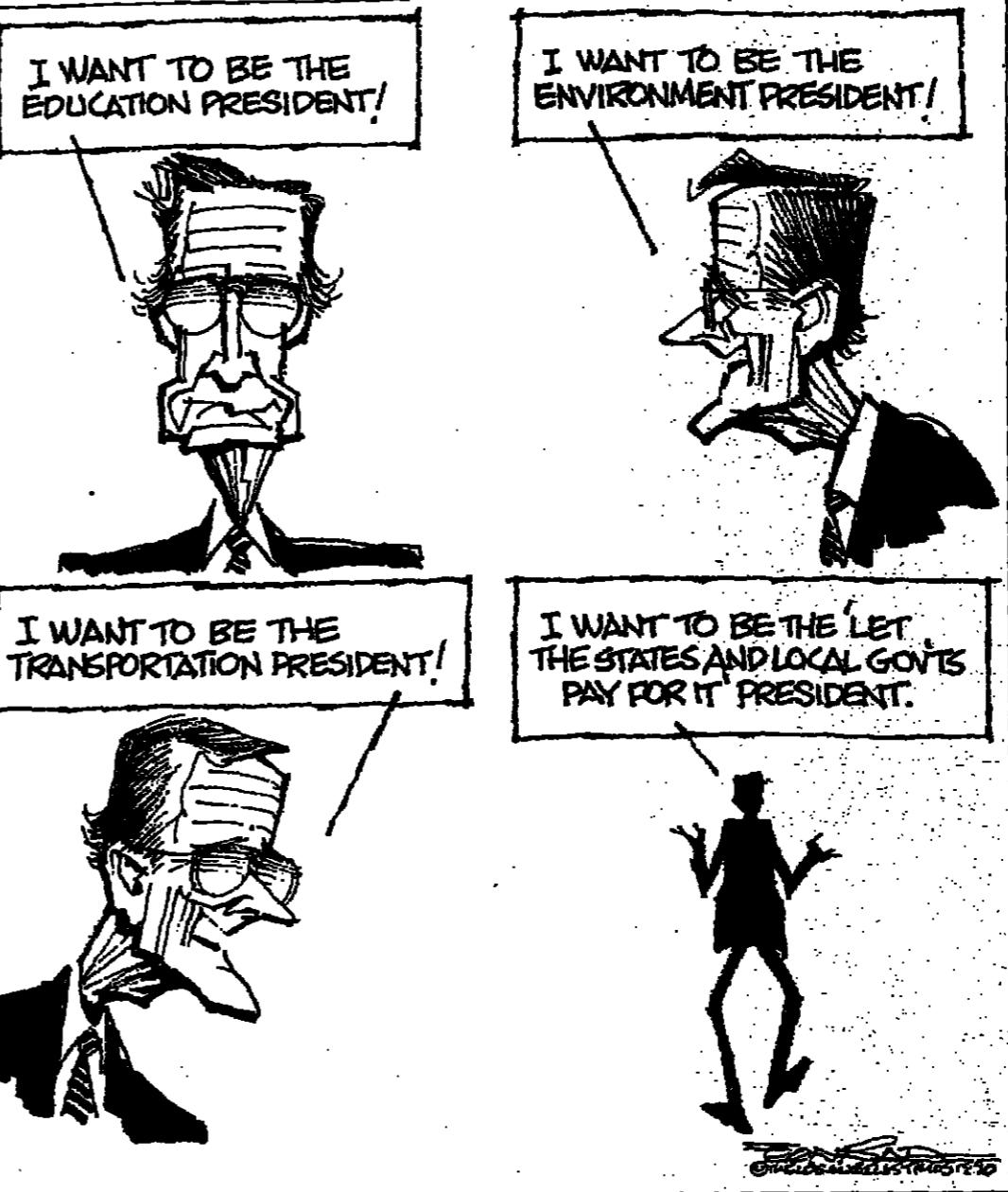
— They seem surprised and even hurt that no foreign government recognised Lithuania as an independent country.

— They filled out the rest of their government in a hurried charade of ministerial appointments performed as Soviet tanks rolled past Parliament.

— They announced plans to set up border checkpoints then backed off when Moscow became alarmed and they realized they could not implement those measures.

— They talk one day of hopeful contacts with Soviet military officials and the next day protest army manoeuvres about which, to their amazement, Moscow does not have the courtesy to inform them in advance.

— They have no clue about how many Soviet troops are based on Lithuanian soil and, as Landsbergis said proudly Wednesday, they have no intelligence activities under way to find out.



West mute over crackdown

LONDON, (AP): The muted response to the Soviet show of military force in Lithuania is proof of the West's commitment to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

And nearly three weeks into the Soviet confrontation with breakaway republic analysts say no one knows whether there is a line beyond which Gorbachev cannot go without provoking Western retaliation.

Soviet soldiers were used to round up Lithuanians who deserted the Red Army after the republic declared March 11 that it was no longer part of the Soviet Union. And troops directed by Moscow have occupied the prosecutor's office, the Institute of Marxism-Leninism, the higher party school and Communist Party headquarters in Lithuania.

"They've let Gorbachev go pretty far," says Jonathan Isle, director of the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based research centre.

Nationalities

"But all the nationalities of the Soviet Union now feel they also can go pretty far because Gorbachev cannot afford to be transformed overnight from a nice, cuddly figure to a

communist dictator..." he said.

Friday, US President George Bush said he had sent a letter to Gorbachev appealing for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

"I want to be sure that the Soviets understand our position and understand that we're not trying to make things difficult for Lithuania or the Soviet Union or anybody else," the president said.

The United States has never recognised the 1940 forced incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union. But it also has never extended formal diplomatic recognition to the secessionist state.

The Western stance has left many Lithuanians feeling betrayed. Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis repeatedly has asked the US Congress to extend recognition to Lithuania.

For some critics, the cautious Western stance evoked echoes of 1956 and 1968, when a very different Kremlin crushed anti-communist uprisings in Hungary and then Czechoslovakia.

"We still feel unease that if he said he would do something, then he would carry it out," said one senior British official speaking on condition of anonymity. He summed up the government attitude by saying: "He's riding a lot of tigers at once — don't put intolerable pressure on the man."

The New Statesman, a left-leaning British weekly, said the apology of Czechoslovakia should be matched by a forthright statement of support for Lithuania.

"Some who have good ties with their employers were picked up by them a few hundred metres inside Gaza... but carry on their job security," a Palestinian journalist said.

"During prolonged curfews and strikes, Israeli employers fired many workers who had sed work or arrived late."

"Some who have good ties with their employers were picked up by them a few hundred metres inside Gaza... but carry on their job security," a Palestinian journalist said.

"Instead of being paid a monthly salary, they began receiving their pay on daily or weekly basis depending on whether they managed to arrive," he said.

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1990

Palestinians trek to Israeli jobs

JENIN, West Bank, (Reuter): Each working day, a 55-year-old Palestinian builder gets up, two a.m. to walk from his West Bank village to a job in Jenin just a few miles away.

He must walk for four hours through the darkness across hills and olive groves detection by Arab activists, who would turn him back as part of their struggle against Israeli occupation.

Irony.

In a bitter irony, he and thousands like him would rather not work in Israel at all. But a 27-month-old uprising, begun to liberate the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israeli rule, has left Palestinians more dependent than ever on work in the Jewish state.

"I want a Palestinian state for my people. But first I worry about my family. What can I do?" said the man, who takes home 1,000 shekels (\$300) a month from his job on an Israeli kibbutz, or collective settlement.

"Some days there are road blocks by (Palestinian) youngsters, or there are strikes (called by leaders of the uprising). If I stay home I lose money. And I have nine children to feed."

"If the youngsters tell me to go back home, I go back home because if I keep going they will throw stones. They'll call me a traitor."

Since the uprising began, at least 550 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and nearly 200 by other Palestinians, mostly on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. Forty-four Jews have died.

The violence has drawn world attention to the 1.7 million Arabs living under Israeli rule since the 1967 Middle East war, and to their desire for a state of their own.

But despite brief interruptions the uprising has not stopped the flow of up to 120,000 workers, or more than a third of the Palestinian workforce, to Israel each day.

The number was the same before the uprising began, according to a study by the Israeli Labour Ministry. More than half work in construction and the rest in agriculture or textiles.

Rhetoric by the uprising leaders about building a self-sufficient economy in the occupied areas has not produced alternative jobs.

Damaging.

The strikes, together with curfews imposed by Israeli troops that sometimes stop Palestinians going to work, have had a damaging effect.

A 60 per cent devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, the main currency in the West Bank, and tighter Israeli control on imports of money have also maintained Palestinians' dependence on Israeli jobs.

Trade union leaders add that heavy Israeli taxes have suffocated many small businesses in the occupied areas.

"People have to earn a living and since they have no alternative, they must work in Israel. It's not against Palestinian nationalism, it's against our duty to survive," said Sabri Sabri, a labour activist in Arab East Jerusalem.

Sometimes, to avoid the difficult journey to work, Palestinians sleep on building sites or factory floors inside Israel. They risk arrest as spending the night in the country is illegal.

Usually, the workers make a late-night trek, avoiding time-consuming security checks by Israeli troops as well as the morning militiamen.

During prolonged curfews and strikes, Israeli employers fire many workers who manage to arrive.

Saleh Qutesh, a member of the executive committee of the United Federation of Labour Movement in the West Bank, said that half of the Palestinians from the territories who worked in Israel were legally registered.

The labour movement, not recognized in Israel, cannot find for any West Bank workers.

Palestinian workers are facing new compulsion — Soviet Jewish immigrants flooding into Israel and looking for jobs.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 Palestinians are likely to lose their jobs to Soviet immigrants in the next year, David Menas, director-general of Israel's State Employment Service, told Reuters.

During a prolonged curfew in Gaza in 1987, Israeli employers protested to the government that their Palestinian employees were mainly employed by the PLO.

But many employers have got round the problem by increasing automation or taking Israeli's own unemployed.

When Gaza workers boycotted their jobs in Israel in August and September last year to protest at the imposition of identity cards, Israeli industry coped without them.

QUOTE ME

"The shuttle team is ready to fly. Hubble is one of the most exciting payloads ever launched aboard the shuttle, and we're looking forward to the mission," William L. Fichtl, associate administrator for space operations, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Discovery flight with a space telescope payload called Hubble.

"We won the military internal struggle. We accelerated the renovation of the military leadership by 20 years. Now we are the head of the lance of Argentine society for the renovation of all the leadership that everyone is asking for." — former Lt Col Aldo Rico of Argentina urging the revamping of the country's entire leadership.

"I tried to dominate the game with my forehand and keep up the pressure. To beat Iain [of Argentina] is a big triumph." — German Carl-Uwe Steeb after beating Iain Jaffe in a Davis Cup match.

"We warn the Japanese government not to stop this. It is certain the revolution will advance by leaps and bounds in the coming 10 years. We may witness total or partial victory within 10 years." — NPA chief warning the Japanese government to desist from giving anti-missile gun to Philippines.

'Israeli occupation will end within 5 years'

MADRID, April 1. (Kuna): High Commissioner of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Giorgio Giacomelli yesterday predicted that the raging Palestinian uprising will last long and that Israeli occupation of the Arab territories will end within five years.

Giacomelli said the Palestinian people are determined more than ever to end the Israeli occupation and their heroic intifada represents a great contribution toward achieving such a goal.

He indicated that the Israelis, who used to think that the uprising will end by time, have now lost hope in halting the intifada.

Speaking exclusively to Kuna, the inter-

national official said that he will confer tomorrow with Palestinian President Yasir Arafat in Tunis, adding that he holds continuous contacts with the PLO which "helps them a lot."

About current situation in the occupied Gaza Strip, Giacomelli said half of the population live in refugee camps where they lack the minimum level of basic health and life care.

He spoke extensively about the severe Israeli oppression of Palestinians in the occupied lands, stressing that in addition to the killing and wounding that are results of such brutal practices, "the oppression has dangerous consequences on the econ-

omy and the Palestinian social structure."

The Italian diplomat, who took office as high commissioner five years ago, said that UNRWA faces many difficulties from Israeli occupation authorities in order to carry out its mission toward helping the Palestinian people.

Regarding Arab contribution to the UNRWA budget, Giacomelli said that the Arab League has made three decisions during the past three years to raise its contribution from \$7 million to \$16 million.

Giacomelli, who left here yesterday winding up a two-day working visit to Spain,

added that he was been waiting for the fulfilment of these resolutions and said he will discuss this matter with Arab League secretary general Chadli Khaldi in Tunis tomorrow.

On his visit to Spain, Giacomelli said that he conferred with Spanish Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Fernando Perpina on situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in the occupied lands and Lebanon.

The UNRWA chief praised Spain's stance toward the Palestinian refugees, saying that Spain's contribution to UNRWA reached \$2 million in 1990.

Rebels hit Kandahar airport

Tanai vows to deal another blow

ISLAMABAD, April 1. (Agencies): US-backed Afghan rebels said yesterday they destroyed a military transport plane in a rocket attack on the airport in the southern city of Kandahar.

A statement by the government-in-exile set up last year by Afghan resistance leaders in Pakistan said rebels also attacked government positions last week around Kandahar, 270 miles (460 km) southwest of Kabul, killing 21 militiamen and wounding 13.

There was no word from the pro-Soviet government in Kabul on the reports, which could not independently be confirmed.

Hekmatyar replaced as foreign minister

PESHAWAR, April 1. (AP): Fundamentalist rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been replaced as foreign minister of the Afghan rebel's government-in-exile, the official news agency of the resistance said yesterday.

Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, president of the so-called interim government, said the post would be filled by Burhanuddin Rabbani, the Mida news agency reported.

Rabbani, the government-in-exile's minister of reconstruction, is leader of the more moderate Jamiat-i-Islami faction of the fractious seven-party Muslim rebel coalition fighting the Afghan government.

His faction is considered the most politically and militarily organised group in the Pakistani-based resistance.

Rabbani's group is a bitter rival of the Hezb-i-Islami party headed by Hekmatyar. There have been widespread reports of fighting between the two groups.

The news agency said Hekmatyar quit as foreign mini-

The rebels, who are based mostly in Pakistan and backed by the United States and some Middle East nations, control about 90 per cent of Afghanistan's territory.

But they have failed to capture any major urban centres since the withdrawal in February last year of Soviet troops backing the Kabul regime and are desperate for a military victory to boost their contention that they are still capable of ousting the government of President Najibullah.

Western diplomats have said fighting has increased across the country in the past few weeks following a winter lull.

The resistance statement said rebels "rained down rockets on Kandahar airport on March 24, destroying a military transport plane. It did not indicate whether the aircraft was on the ground or in the air.

It said rebels also attacked government troops in northern Kunduz province the same day, killing 12 militiamen and prompting retaliatory air attacks that caused many civilian casualties.

In another development, official Kabul radio yesterday reported the government has issued a decree ordering that confiscated property be returned to the owners. Observers saw the move as an attempt to lure back refugees.

More than 5 million refugees from the 11-year-old civil war reside in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran. Despite the Soviet withdrawal, few of them returned.

Former Afghan Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tanai, who fled after his failed coup against President Najibullah early this month, said yesterday he would attack again.

He told reporters by radio from what he called a mobile base in Afghanistan that he was planning a tougher action than the March 6 putsch, in which more than 200 people were killed and the presidential palace in the capital Kabul was bombed.

"Najib (Najibullah) will not survive. We are planning another blow," he said.

The radical Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar arranged the novel news conference in which reporters in the party office in the northwestern Pakistani city Peshawar spoke to Tanai by radio.

The 40-year-old former general spoke in his Pushki mother tongue through an interpreter for more than hour, also answering reporters' questions.

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Iraqi airline official, Omar Latif (centre) is surrounded by police and immigration officers at Heathrow airport prior to being deported from Britain. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Israeli military analysts have estimated that Iraq is less than five years away from developing nuclear weapons, and that it was making rapid strides in producing other unconventional weapons.

■ The four-nation Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) assailed Britain and Western media for their treatment of one of its members, Iraq.

"There is no easily identifiable target that you hit and then get rid of the whole nuclear option," he said. "There doesn't seem to

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EVENTS**Meet a neighbour**

Umm Mohammed at Souk Al Hareem

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

AS I entered Souk Al Hareem, the familiar smell of pure traditional spices floated and wafted through my nostrils. The women were introducing their products by gesturing and shouting to draw the attention of prospective customers.

I walked through the narrow aisle and my ears were pierced with the sound of *Khorba, Dra'a, Athwab*. I made my way to the centre where I found Umm Mohammed sitting modestly on a very simple stall made of bricks and covered with a green and white checked rug.

She was a little difficult to find due to being completely covered by the traditional Kuwaiti costume, that is the black abaya and the veil.

I had come to like this "little old lady" several years ago through obtaining some of my personal requirements. I liked her for personal simplicity and gentle, humorous nature.

Her products were accumulated in front of her and as she reached out to fold a head-dress I spotted blue bulging veins against the black-drops of thin white hands.

A pumice stone caught my eye, I picked it up and asked Umm

Mohammed how much it cost. She answered in a slightly cold tone but I persisted speaking to her in my usual friendly manner in the hope of eventually obtaining at least part a story on her professional activities.

Eventually, she agreed to tell her life history. The first obstacle was removed.

I was curious to see how she looked under the veil. My request brought a certain level of discomfort. Again I had to go through the ordeal of giving her faith and trust from my side and again won.

Umm Mohammed selling abayas, khoras, sarawee and other things for more than forty years in Souk Al Hareem makes her living from this very simple stall.

She is among a few number of old Kuwaiti women reviving this activity in the souk. She started her profession during the rule of the late Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmed Al Jaber.

This very simple stall she owns means everything to her, the old, the present and the past of her 70-year existence.

Queried about moving her stall for another better location in one of the new buildings surrounding the souk, she vehemently refused.

"I am rooted to this place, it is a piece of my property, it has

come to be a part and parcel of my very being. I want to be here and will not move until the last day of my life," Umm Mohammed said.

The mother of three sons and six daughters believes in education and equality between men and women. Although she studies Holy Quran in Mottawa's school "school for teaching Holy Quran" yet she admitted encouraging her sons and daughters to study. This fruitful push towards her children resulted in their being placed in senior positions in different ministries.

"Every thing has changed so accordingly we have to change in our thinking but not in our manners," said Umm Mohammed. She resented the enormous changes that society is passing through. She said that people now, act individually not as a one family team while in the past they were very linked with each other and helpful.

"In the past people had good neighbourly relations, although they were very poor. Now, although they are rich, they are impoverished in their outlook and thinking and behaviour in general lacks a certain level of good neighbourliness," she said.

The souk, close to her heart is the primitive old Souk Al Hareem where people knew each other. People at that time would

cover their goods with a piece of material and go home to sleep. Now the souk is bigger, strangers are roaming everywhere and goods have to be taken back home. This sense of insecurity is a modern development, she said.

Old days in the souk means a lot to her. She was making four rupees a day that afforded her living for one week. However, after the boom arising from returns of oil wealth, the amount of KD10, she earns each day, barely suffices to make her daily ends meet.

Umm Mohammed started selling in this souk at the age of nine. Her mother who used to bake bread provided her with the first item of sale.

She was living in Seif area near Noga' Al Shamalan. The primitive mode of transport to the area was via a donkey. She rode them on unpaved roads, full of potholes, crossing alleys where the houses looked muddy and appeared they would collapse at any moment.

The Kuwaiti woman with her abaya, said she used to sell *dar'as*, *abayas*, domestically stitched for forty rupees. Now every thing is imported and a single *thoub*, Kuwaiti embroidered dress cost KD150.

"People in the past purchased their needs from old women regardless of their appearance.

Now, people prefer buying anything from good-looking and young non-Kuwaiti women.

"Buyers from the souk nowadays shun women like me," Umm Mohammed said. This statement really brought a pang to my heart. Honest, hard labour unfortunately, is no longer appreciated...

She keeps her treasure "documents of owning this simple stall" in a small purse wrapped in a piece of cloth around her waist.

Umm Mohammed moved to live in the Salmiya area over 25 years ago and, is daily driven to the souk by her son. Asked about her likes and dislikes, she said, she enjoys watching TV programmes specially the Arabic films and the news.

Umm Mohammed remembers the first TV brought to her during the late sixties. She was very happy to see people appearing and how she searched the box to find the people hiding in that box, she laughed when she told me...

As a regular TV watcher, Umm Mohammed has her own political views on current issues in the Arab world. She praised the Palestinian intifada and cursed the Israelis as a thorn in the Arab body. She also wished a speedy end to Lebanon war.

She likes travelling outside

Kuwait and has visited several countries such as Turkey, Syria and Iraq with her daughters and sons. "I saw many beautiful countries, with green pastures, but Kuwait with its severe climate is the best place to me on Earth," she said.

About her dislikes she cited the newcomers to the souk. The merchant who deceives his customers and the current transactions among merchants' using cheques instead of cash money, she added.

An active woman, Umm Mohammed is famous for selling henna to women. This henna is brought from Sudan and Iraq, she said.

The first time she used henna was when she got married at the age of 12. Now she is an expert in distinguishing different qualities of henna and advises the people on its usages.

Umm Mohammed, who considers herself as a part of this souk, wished that such areas as old souks not be demolished, rather, she said, authorities should endeavour to maintain them, as artefacts reflecting Kuwait's glorious heritage. The Kuwaiti old monuments such as Souk Al Hareem, Souk Al Gharabali and old mosques in the Mubarakiya area should be respected, looked after and renovated with utmost urgency.

**WHAT'S ON****ARTS****Sultan Gallery**

INDIAN artist Shamma Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamma's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL**Hyderabad**

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quill Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadi and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Ladies International League

LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Cecilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Swedish Ladies Meeting
The Swedish ladies will hold a coffee afternoon on April 3, Tuesday. For further details call 5317473.

Holy Week 1990**Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait**

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am. Holy Mass (English), 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Confession: 6.30 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm. Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam — in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am. Consecrated Mass of Chrism (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm. Adoration (English — in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April: 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Confessions: 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April:

7.00 am. Holy Mass (English);

9.00 am. Holy Mass (English);

10.00 am. Holy Mass (English);

11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon. Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Sindhu Devi

PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous playback singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kiteian.

Saligacars

CALLING all Saligacars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res). Aloo Carvalho, 2411442 (Res). 246121, America Remedios. Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz. Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro Res. 2415401. Tel. 2412337.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistani Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistan schools in Kuwait.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre will present a St. George's Night show on Wednesday 18th April. Stage crew, wood butchers and set painters are required now. Set construction begins on Saturday 31st March at 6.30 pm in the theatre. Call the stage manager on 3725407 for details.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office Saturday to Wednesday 7.30 to 14.00; Library Saturday to Wednesday 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday 9.00 to 1.20.

Approb Eid dinner

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising a Gala Eid Milan Party on the second day of Eid Al Fitr. An Approb press release said.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes, the press release said. The venue of the party will be announced shortly.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistan schools in Kuwait.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 489566.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaiton on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play co-directed by Sherly Pattathu and directed by Jayan T. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Rose Ferns' drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema Hall, Kiteian, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred-plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817837.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club

take great pleasure in announcing

their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorecho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmee J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia H. Britton and Seby Seby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

East Europeans get blunt advice on doing business with West

BONN, April 1. (Reuters): Eastern Europe's budding businessmen are getting some blunt advice from the Western entrepreneurs they are so keen to do deals with.

At an East-West economic conference here, Western executives are brushing aside airy visions of joint ventures and co-operation agreements and challenging their Eastern counterparts to get to grips with more mundane matters.

Niels Peter Freihsen, whose Danish company Dasa makes foundry equipment, told a panel of Soviet businessmen he had tried for two years

in vain to place orders with Soviet firms.

"You don't apply the normal international trade standards, you don't have the right quality, you don't have the right delivery times," he told them.

"As long as you cannot trade on standard business conditions, I don't see how you can be competitive in the West."

Canadian businessman Edwin Mallory recently visited a large Soviet industrial company which exports to 34 countries.

"I was surprised to learn that this enterprise had no telex connection

with the outside world," said Mallory, a vice-president of property developers Olympia and York.

Jan Nystroem of the Swedish Trade Council said the Soviet Union still tended to think too much in terms of large organisations and grand projects, overlooking the potential of small businesses.

"I sometimes feel your organisations believe that foreign trade is much more complicated than it really is," he said.

Far from being offended, Moscow and its reformist allies appear to welcome the advice.

Soviet delegate Georgi Petrov, an official of the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, said joint ventures with Western companies would lead to the transfer of know-how, new methods of management and new technology.

"We are in very great need of such new methods of management, of economic thinking," he told a news conference.

"We should learn the art of how to make a feasibility study, to count money, to make a real balance of accounts on the micro level, on the level of individual enterprises."

Sergei Zotov of the Soviet delegation said the talks were helping to narrow the differences between Eastern and Western economies and to bring businessmen from both sides together.

"We believe this conference is a particularly appropriate forum to start dialogue on how to overcome the economic and technological division of the European continent," he said.

Some 220 Soviet businessmen are attending the three-week conference on economic co-operation in Europe, which groups 33 European countries — only Albania is missing — plus the

United States and Canada.

The businessmen, from throughout the Soviet Union, have been trying to drum up investment for their areas and convince their often sceptical Western partners that President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms are starting to bite.

A delegation from the Urals put forward the possibility of joint ventures involving defence companies in their region. When questioned further, they said this would involve manufacturing civilian products such as train engines.

The talks, which end on April 11, are an offshoot of the Conference on

Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) launched by the 1975 Helsinki accords.

For the first time at a CSCE meeting, businessmen outnumber diplomats among the 1,800 delegates by around two to one — hence the undiplomatic plain speaking.

A draft final document put forward by the European Economic Community urging all 35 states to embrace free enterprise has won a surprising degree of acceptance from the Eastern Europeans. The old-style centrally planned economy has had no defenders.

Iran plans gas export projects

NEW YORK, April 1. (UPI): Iran expects to award major contracts to foreign companies this year for several natural gas export projects, the country's oil minister was reported as saying yesterday.

In its March issue, world gas intelligence quoted Iran's Oil Minister, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, saying he expected the contracts to be signed by the end of 1990.

Iran, with the world's second-largest natural gas reserves after the Soviet Union, wants to build a gas pipeline across Turkey to Southern Europe and another across Pakistan to India, the publication said.

Iran's exports are currently limited to one relatively small pipeline through the Soviet Union, it said.

In September, Aghazadeh was reported by the Opecna news agency as saying natural gas exports to the Soviet Union, halted 10 years ago when the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini came to power, would resume in March.

Tehran also was reported around the same time as saying Iran planned to spend \$3.4 billion over the next five years to develop natural gas resources on the Gulf Coast.

In an interview in the publication, Algerian Oil Minister Sadiq Boussena projected rising demand for natural gas in Western Europe and said Algeria would raise the capacity of its pipeline under the Mediterranean to Italy and build another through Morocco to Spain.

For the moment, Boussena said, discussions regarding supplying Eastern Europe with natural gas "have stagnated."

"More interesting at the moment," Boussena said, "are the West European countries. They need more gas. And here, discussions are well-advanced."

He said Algeria's new pipeline could provide natural gas to Germany, which in turn could sell the gas to its eastern neighbours.

KD deposit rates firm

KUWAIT, April 1. (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits were mainly steady in the Sunday trade, with business concentrating on the short dates.

Overnight, tomorrow-next and spot-next all dealt at 8-5/8 per cent. Quotes for all three edged up 1/16 point to 8-11/16, 7/16 per cent but dealers said they were well-offered.

Fixed maturities were quiet, with the one-month indicated steady at 8-13/16, 9/16, three-months at 8-7/8, 5/8 and six-months at 8-15/16, 11/16.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged as normal on Sunday's at 0.293787/97 to the dollar.

Polish inflation dips sharply

WARSAW, April 1. (Reuters): Poland's harsh economic austerity measures are bringing spiralling prices under control but Warsaw needs more relief from its crippling foreign debt, the government said yesterday.

Deputy Finance Minister Wojciech Misiek said prices rose between five and six per cent in March, after monthly leaps of 78.6 per cent in January and 23.9 per cent in February.

"I can say that March has been successful... we are really close to the stabilisation of prices," Misiek told a news conference.

He quoted Peter Hole, head of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team which visited Poland this week, as saying the reform programme was "on track and going smoothly."

Poles have suffered steep falls in real wages since the Solidarity-led government introduced its reform package on Jan 1. Inflation surged over the next two months, hitting a record annual 1,266 per cent in February, as subsidies were slashed and energy prices quadrupled.

Iraqi minister to visit Japan

TOKYO, April 1. (Opecna): Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi is due to arrive here on Tuesday for a visit lasting several days, sources at the Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

They pointed out that the minister will hold talks with Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Taro Nakayama and International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto.

Al Chalabi is expected to address a function organised by businessmen in Tokyo, as well as meet with executives of Japanese firms.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery rose 25 cents to \$20.28 a barrel on the Merc. The closing, however, was 11 cents lower than

According to industry statistics, Japan imported five percent of its total oil needs, valued at around \$800 million, from the Opec member country in 1988.

Meanwhile late buying helped push up crude oil and products prices Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, with technical factors largely controlling the trading activity in the absence of any major developments.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery rose 25 cents to \$20.28 a barrel on the Merc. The closing, however, was 11 cents lower than

a week ago closing of \$20.39 a barrel.

Unleaded gasoline for May delivery, the contract receiving the most attention on the Merc recently, also moved up 0.25 cent to 65.36 cents a gallon. It closed at 57.66 cents a gallon at the end of the previous week.

Home-heating oil rose 0.56 cent to 54.34 cents a gallon. A week ago, heating oil closed at 55.46 cents a gallon.

"We got good buying before the weekend. There was more interest in taking delivery than making delivery," said Peter Beutel at Elders Futures Inc. in

New York. "Other than that it was a quiet day and only the technical indications helped the market to drift up."

On the US Gulf Coast spot market, where crude is bought and sold for cash, WTI was quoted at \$20.35 a barrel, up 35 cents.

On the European spot market, Britain's widely traded North Sea Brent crude was up 10 cents to \$18.25 a barrel.

The United Arab Emirates' Dubai light — they key Opec crude from the Middle East shipped mainly to the Far East — added 25 cents to \$15.60 a barrel.

Soviet oil production slumps

Industrial activity declines

MOSCOW, April 1. (Opecna): Soviet oil production in the first two months of this year fell by four per cent from the same period in 1989 as political and social unrest heightened, it has been reported here.

Leonid Abalkin, head of the Soviet Union's State Commission for Economic Reform, said that the decline in oil production was just part of a general slump in industrial activity that began in December last year.

Quoted by Reuters news agency, he said in addition to reduced crude output, coal production had fallen by six per cent in January and February.

The Soviet Union still remains the world's largest oil producer but its normal output of around 12 million bpd is on a steady downward trend.

Apart from the strikes and political upheaval, the oil industry has been dogged by its own operational problems. Some oilfields have reached maturity while many installations and facilities are already out of date.

Abalkin said that a series of strikes in the Soviet union had kept an average of 200,000 workers away from their jobs every day.

"This state of affairs demands that the government make substantial adjustments to the economic recovery programme," he asserted.

Burma, Korean firm sign deals

RANGOON, April 1. (UPI): The Burmese government has concluded business deals with the Daewoo group of South Korea for joint production of electronic goods and garments for export, and for building a wholly Korean-owned five-star hotel in Rangoon, officials said Friday.

The deals were struck during the two-day visit to Rangoon of Daewoo chairman Kim Woo-Choo earlier this week, said Col. Than Shwe, managing director of the government-owned Myanmar Heavy Industries company. The nation of Burma recently changed its name to Myanmar.

The business deals are a sign that the military government of Burma, which seized direct power in September, 1988, has opened the country's doors to foreign investment for the first time since 1963.

It also plans to encourage tourism, but both investment and tourism have been hampered by continued political arrests and foreign charges of government violations of human rights.

Under an agreement signed Thursday, Myanmar Heavy Industries and Daewoo will set up a joint-venture named Daewoo Electronic Myanmer Company Ltd. for the manufacture of televisions, radio cassette players and refrigerators, than Shwe said.

Mexico considering free trade deal with US

MEXICO CITY, April 1. (Reuters): Mexico is considering a free trade deal with the United States — its dominating northern neighbour that swallowed half its territory last century — in what could amount to a reversal of an economic nationalism dating from the revolution of 1910.

At its most ambitious, such an agreement — similar to that reached by the United States and Canada in 1988 — could create a North American common market to compete with economic blocs emerging in a unified Europe and the Pacific rim.

The idea of closer economics with the United States, with which Mexico conducts 65 per cent of its foreign trade, carries heavy political and economic risks for a country proud of its nationalist tradition.

Historically, Mexico used a strict regime of tariff barriers and closely regulated foreign investment to resist the intervention of outsiders.

No real negotiations on a free trade agreement are under way, but Jaime Serra Puche, Mexico's Minister of Trade and Industrial Development, said on Wednesday

that his country and Washington were jointly analysing their trade relationship.

On Tuesday, the White House said Mexico and the United States were talking about negotiating a free trade agreement similar to the US-Canadian trade pact, but US officials cautioned that it could take time.

Mexicans are wary of their powerhouse northern neighbours, who seized and incorporated such territories as Texas, California and Arizona more than a century ago, and some fear the contrast in economic development is too extreme.

But the move toward commercial integration with the United States may be a wise one for a debt-ridden economy almost incapable of securing new loans from international markets.

"The disparity between the levels of development of the two countries puts us at a disadvantage. We run the risk of becoming simply suppliers of raw materials for the US and Canadian markets," trade analyst Juan Jose Mercado told Reuters.

Mercado, assistant director of the

1,000-member Association of Mexican Importers and Exporters (Aniem), said a US-Mexico trade agreement could also constitute a setback for Latin American nations who believe economic health lies in regional co-operation.

Such a deal would be the latest bold move by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who has pledged to rid Mexico of the vestiges of decades of protectionist trade policy discarded when the country launched a trade liberalisation programme in the mid-1980s.

By pursuing a trade agreement Salinas opens himself to an assault by the political opposition, which has attacked him for privatising state-controlled companies. His ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is frequently accused by political opponents of using electoral fraud to hold onto power.

"There is a predominant idea that a free trade agreement would imply many risks and disadvantages for Mexico," an editorial in the leftist daily La Jornada said on Thursday, adding that free trade might also bring benefits.

Labour is likely to be one of the toughest points of negotiations. Washington is already trying to control the flow of thousands of undocumented workers from Mexico into the United States in search of jobs.

US workers fear that industry could flee south of the border, where the minimum wage is less than four dollars a day and per capita income is one-tenth of that in the United States.

Another key issue could be the sharing of technology, with Mexico eager to update outmoded factories.

Mexicans worry that northern capitalists will exploit their newly-opened economy and carry the profits home.

Tariffs on hundreds of products were reduced or eliminated after Mexico joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1986 and trade officials last year drafted relaxed foreign investment regulations aimed at attracting more capital.

But those reforms have yet to reap the desired effects.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange price (Rs)	Indrol
March 30, '90.	21.50
Pr. Close	55.50
Open	56.50
Close	411
ACC	—
Alem Chem	—
Alv Nis	—
Ari Fab	—
Ashok Ley	75
Asia Paint	232.50
Atlas Cop	35
Auto Corp	58.75
Nat Index	415.24
Bajaj Auto	422.50
Bar Rayon	792.50
Blow Plast	815
Bow Dye	195
BK Bond	114
Burr Wel	85
Canshane	—
Cen Enka	3400
Cen Spg	3200
Colgate	223.75
Cromi Gr	930
DCM	16
Deep Fert	31.50
Dunlop	56
EI Hotels	64
Escorts	85
BSE Index	767.74
Eskayef	132.50
Essar Spg	33.75
Food Spk	125
Forbes	52
Gar Poly	33.50
Glindia	99.50
GNFC	41
Grasim	120
GE Slpg	

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



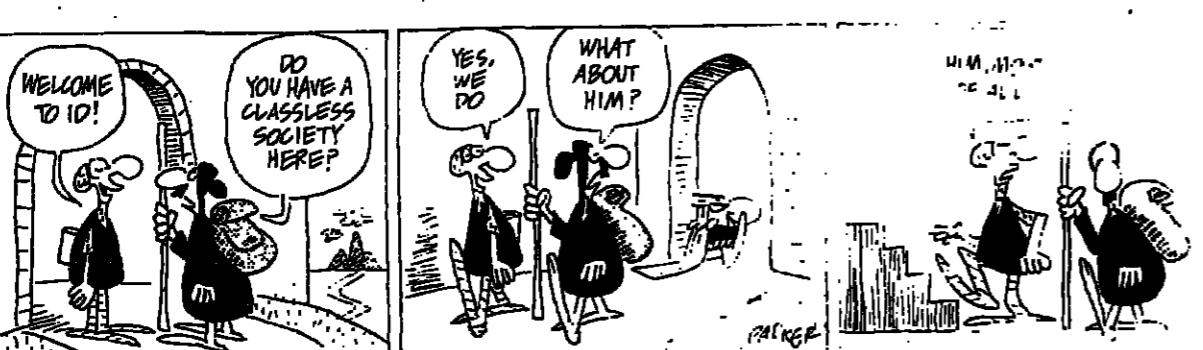
AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



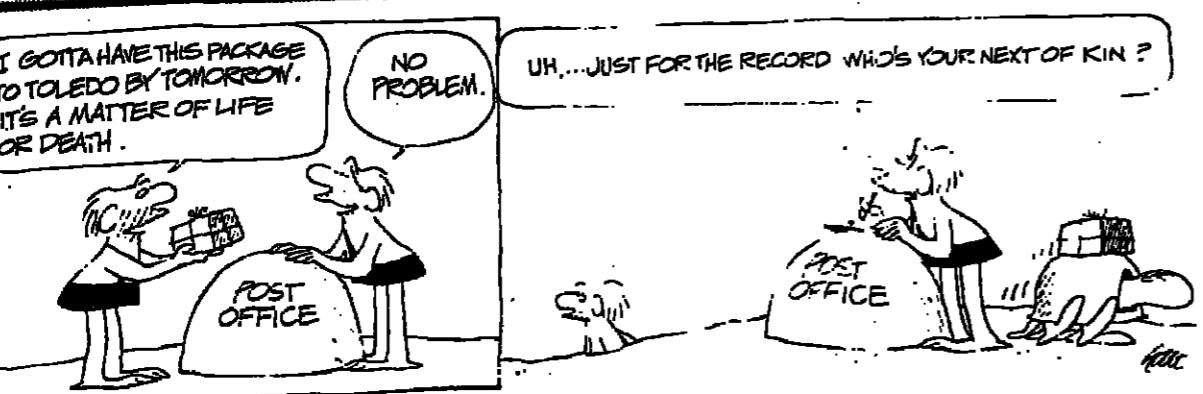
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



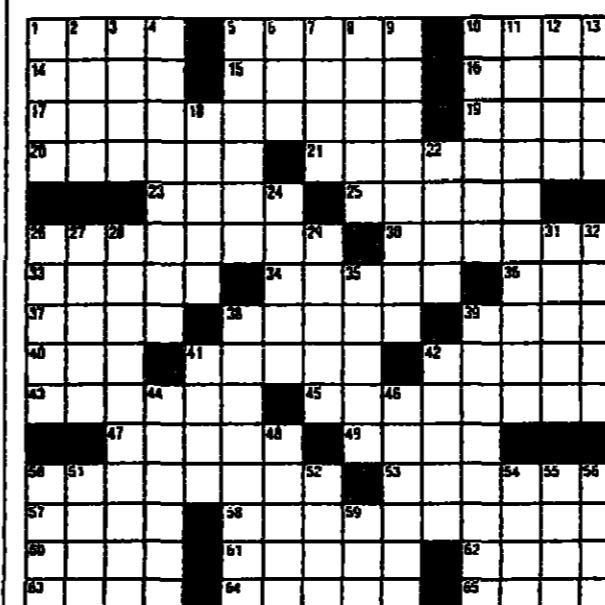
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Biting remark
- 5 Furtive looks
- 10 Shoshonean Indians
- 14 Hautboy
- 15 Patois
- 16 Artist's subject
- 17 One who appears strong, but is weak
- 19 Ship's jail
- 20 Dagger
- 21 Enter
- 23 Guadeloupe and Martinique
- 25 Louis or Paul
- 26 Ready to fight
- 30 Gorgon slain by Perseus
- 33 Currency
- 34 Facilitated
- 36 Butter
- 37 'Gil' — Léage novel
- 38 Manipulator
- 39 Sicilian landmark
- 40 Rebuke
- 41 Fourche, Dak
- 42 Tempests of a sort
- 43 Up
- 45 Sprinklers
- 47 Fellows
- 49 Signer
- 50 World of boxing
- 53 Afternoon nap
- 57 Precedes gram
- 58 Stop at nothing
- 60 Blue birds
- 61 Lower deck
- 62 Time past
- 63 Words of understanding

DOWN

- 28 Highly unlikely!
- 29 Spanker and topgallant
- 31 More lucid
- 32 Collect
- 35 Percolates
- 38 Five-sided figure
- 39 Sharp watch
- 41 River of N and can Bolivian
- 42 Chalice
- 44 Bristly
- 45 'Fables'
- 48 Night sound
- 50 Suva is the capital
- 51 Lupine and Tarbell
- 52 Leatherworkers' tools
- 54 Evince
- 55 Ran
- 56 Matures
- 59 Torrid

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MANN	JAM	STASH
EDIE	IWO	NEARTO
LETUS	BETHANKFUL	TARTE
FOR	ION	ESNE
FORT	FOOL	TART
OTIS	OILER	ION
ASIN	TEO	ESNE
BUT	BONITO	RENT
BOBBIN	TON	DENT
AREAS	PEPE	STOFUS
SHOT	NIN	TRILKE
COULD	NOT	ASTERS
SUCCESS	SUCCEED	ELKIMIN
MESSY	RYE	TANIA

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TRUMPS AREN'T ENOUGH AGAINST TOMMY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

- * A
- J 7 5
- A 9 6 5 3 2
- + J 8 3

WEST

- ♦ J 10 4 2
- ♦ 9 6 5 3
- Q 10 9 8 6
- Void
- K 8
- 10 7
- + A K

EAST

- ♦ 9 6 5 3
- Void

SOUTH

- ♦ K Q 8 7
- A K 4 3 2
- Q J 4
- + 4

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 Pass
3 Pass 4 Dbl
Pass Pass Pass

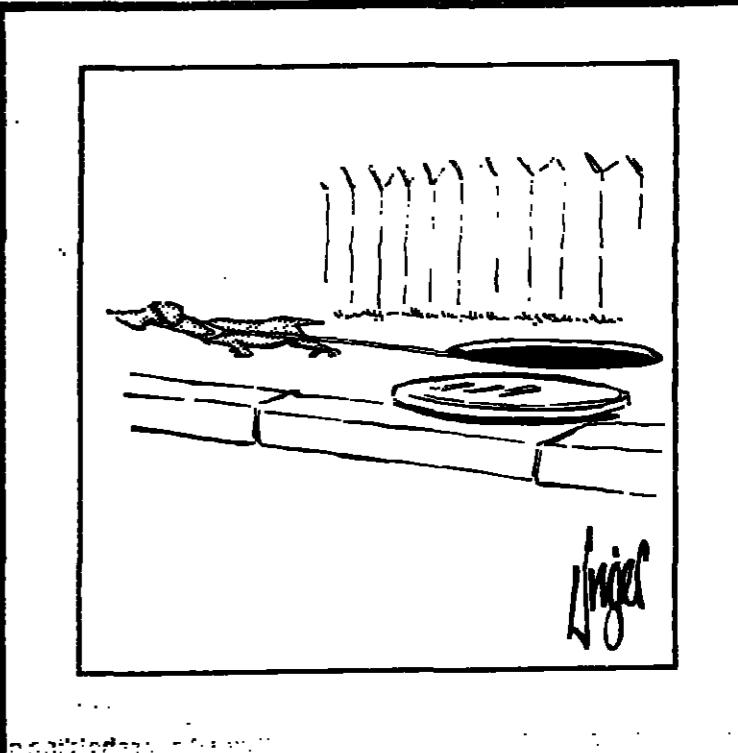
Opening lead: Ace of ♦

Besides being hooked on bridge, Trump Coup Tommy was an ardent skier. Every January he journeyed to St. Moritz, in Switzerland, to play in the annual bridge congress and enjoy the slopes. And every once in a while along would come a hand that suited his peculiar talent of playing well when trumps broke badly, making his *hegira* doubly pleasurable.

North's jump to three diamonds, a one-round force, promised a heart fit, a diamond suit and a good hand. The double fit improved South's hand and — he looked like an easy proposition until West wielded the ax. That defender had never played against Tommy before, so did not realize the error of his ways.

Since West's double had to indicate a trump stack, Tommy's interest was immediately awakened. He ruffed the second club and scorned the normal line of drawing a round or two of trumps. Instead, he immediately led the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and won by dummy's ace. Declarer returned to hand with the jack of diamonds, crossed to the ace of spades and ruffed a club, overruffed by West.

West could do no better than return the jack of spades. Tommy won, cashed his remaining high spade and then ruffed a spade on the table. When declarer simply exited with a diamond, West was trapped. That worthy was forced to ruff and a trump return away from the queen allowed declarer to score three trump tricks. In all, Tommy collected three spade tricks, three trump tricks, a ruff in each hand and two diamonds.



YOUR STARS



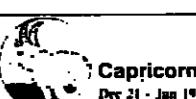
Aries
March 21 - April 19



Cancer
June 21 - July 22



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

Something that you had been sure would indeed not happen. However, on reflection you will find that to have been for the best. You should not take too much of anything for granted. Be respectful.



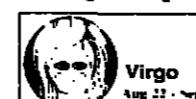
Taurus
April 21 - May 20

Others will put themselves first and you would hardly be expecting any different. Make sure you do not leave anything lying about and do not make things easy for burglars. You should not be too hard on others, show a little more understanding. Be forgiving.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Something you have been delaying should now be done without further procrastination. You should give others the benefit of the doubt. Ensure that you get enough rest and take sufficient exercise. Be generous.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 22

Something you had hoped would happen will but it could well happen too late to make an appreciable difference. You are more liable to make mistakes so be on the lookout for them. Do not place too much reliance on others. Be persistent.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22

Something you had hoped would happen will but it could well happen too late to make an appreciable difference. You are more liable to make mistakes so be on the lookout for them. Do not place too much reliance on others. Be persistent.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You will have the wind in your sails and you are heading in the right direction, too. However, you should make sure you do not set yourself impossibly high targets. Rely less on others, more on your self. Be tactful.



Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

You will have some good luck insofar as you will not suffer the full consequences of some foolish act of yours. If you think well of others you will be rewarded with a clear conscience. Take a little more care about your personal appearance. Be moderate.



"You can guess who's paying for this lot ... 'wedding doughnuts.'"



"Lifetime guarantee against speeding tickets."

Arsenal keep title hopes alive

Rush helps Liverpool regain lead

LONDON, April 1, (Reuter): Liverpool scored twice in the last 12 minutes, the second coming from Ian Rush, to regain the English First Division leadership with a 3-2 victory over Southampton yesterday.

A thunderous 20-metre drive by former Liverpool player Jimmy Case gave Southampton a 2-1 lead in the 49th minute, but an own goal and Rush's decisive right-foot strike sent Liverpool back on top on goal difference from Aston Villa.

But their tenure of the top spot may be short-lived as Villa, who have played one game more, will replace them if they beat lowly Manchester City Monday.

Champions Arsenal kept alive their hopes of retaining the title with a 1-0 triumph over Everton which moved them to within six points of the top.

At the lower end of the table, Manchester United eased their relegation worries with a 3-0 home victory over Coventry with two goals by Mark Hughes and one from Mark Robins.

When John Barnes headed Liverpool ahead in the 14th minute, the title favourites seemed to be well on the way towards averting a 4-1 League defeat at Southampton last October.

But Southampton had neglected to read the script. They never looked overawed and Paul Rideout headed an equaliser in the 35th minute before Case rifled them ahead just after the interval.

The equaliser came in the 78th minute when a cross from Peter Beardsley was deflected into the Southampton net by captain Kevin Moore. Four minutes later Rush completed Southampton's misery with the winning goal.

Liverpool have eight League matches left, while Villa have seven.

Papin helps Marseille close gap

PARIS, April 1, (Reuter): Jean-Pierre Papin grabbed his third-trick of the season yesterday to put Marseille back in touch with French League leaders Bordeaux and boost his side in advance of Wednesday's European Cup semifinal with Benfica.

Papin, who scored three in Marseille's last home game against Toulon two weeks ago, struck in the 16th, 81st and 88th minutes as his side stylishly dismissed Lille 4-1.

Marseille's English winger Chris Waddle had given the Mediterranean Club the lead in the 14th minute. Lille's consolation goal was scored by Alain Fiard after 56 minutes.

The victory enabled Marseille to close the gap with Bordeaux to two points after the leaders were surprisingly held to a goalless draw at Mulhouse, who were bottom of the table.

Marseille were the only club from the top six to win at the weekend. Third-placed Monaco drew 0-0 in Nantes, three places lower, on Friday night.

Souchaux were beaten 2-0 in Montpellier where on-form striker Eric Cantona scored both goals to take his tally for the week to four. He also scored twice in France's 3-1 win over Hungary in Budapest on Wednesday.

Lyon, in fifth place, surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Cannes who had to play the second half with 10 men after Juan Herrero was sent off.



Rush: scored a late goal

Arsenal sustained their challenge thanks to Alan Smith's first goal since New Year's Day, but their display was disappointing against unadventurous opposition.

Smith scored in the 21st minute but through Everton Goalkeeper Neville Southall saved superbly from Nigel Winterburn and Kevin Campbell before the break, he had only one save to make through the entire second half — off Smith three minutes from time.

Earlier, Paul Allen scored for Spurs in the third minute before Arsenal, too, have only seven

games remaining.

Tottenham moved ahead of

Everton into fourth place on goal difference by beating Sheffield Wednesday 4-2 as striker Gary Lineker, England's scorer in their 1-0 midweek defeat of Brazil, connected twice within two minutes in the second half.

First a header then a lob over the keeper brought Spurs from 2-1 down to 3-2 ahead and Paul Stewart's late goal completed a 4-2 victory.

Earlier, Paul Allen scored for

Spurs in the third minute before

United had beaten Coventry 4-0 in October, but despite yesterday's score it was not all one-way traffic. Goalkeeper Jim Leighton made a string of fine saves, two off Cyrille Regis and two off David Speedie.

United are now five points clear of the bottom four, three of whom will be relegated. One of those seems certain to be Millwall, five points adrift of the pack after a 2-1 home defeat by Crystal Palace.

Charlton kept their slim

survival hopes alive with a 1-0 win over Queen's Park Rangers that brought them within three points of three-from-bottom Luton, who lost 2-0 at Norwich.

Results

English Division One	
Arsenal	1
Charlton	1
Chelsea	1
Liverpool	3
Manchester U	3
Spurs	0
Southampton	2
Coventry	0

goals from David Hirst in the 21st minute and Dalian Atkinson in the 52nd put Wednesday 2-1 ahead.

Chelsea trail Everton only on

goal difference after their 1-1 draw with Derby.

Northern

Ireland

striker Kevin Wilson

scored for Chelsea against his former club in the 5th minute and Mick Harford equalised in the 84th.

Manchester United reaped a rich dividend from the return to first team action of England midfielder Neil Webb after seven months recovering from a torn Achilles tendon.

He provided balance and compo-

sition in midfield while Hughes supplied the class up front.

Hughes got the first goal in the 26th minute and the second in the 36th after fine work by Webb, chesting down a superb cross to blast home his 13th goal of the season.

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SPORTS

Seles and Maleeva cruise into hardcourt tennis finals

SAN ANTONIO, April 1. (Reuters): Second-seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland won yesterday and will face each other in the finals of the \$225,000 US Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Seles, ranked fourth in the world, beat American Rosalyn Fairbank-

Nideffer 6-3 6-0 and Maleeva defeated American Lori McNeil 6-0 6-4.

Seles took a 3-1 lead on two service breaks. But Fairbank-Nideffer held serve at love and closed to 3-2. Seles held the next game, but Fairbank-Nideffer countered with another love game to bring the score to 4-3.

The second set was no contest as Seles used effective passing shots and volleys to capture the one-hour, two-minute match.

Maleeva had little trouble with McNeil, ranked 54th in the world, in the opening set, taking it in 21 minutes.

In the second set, McNeil, who

upset top seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina on Thursday in the first round, held serve and closed to 4-3.

Maleeva hit a forehand down the middle and took a 5-3 lead on her serve. But McNeil countered the next game and smacked a wide passing shot to close to 5-4.

In the 10th game of the set, McNeil

led Maleeva 40-0, but Maleeva brought it to deuce. McNeil took the advantage next point but Maleeva again brought the score to deuce.

Maleeva had match point on a forehand volley, but hit a wide forehand the next shot. She took control, however, by smacking a forehand passing shot for advantage-in and

captured the match on the next point with another passing shot.

"I tried to keep her away from the net," said Maleeva, who lost in the finals of a Chicago women's tournament to Martina Navratilova in February. "I was passing very well. I felt I could pass from any position if I had to."

"We're both backcourt players, so it could be a long match," said Seles of her pending championship match.

"Maleeva is a consistent player. There will be long rallies."

Seles and Maleeva have played three times. The 16-year-old Seles has

won all matches and has not dropped a set to the 23-year-old Maleeva.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Yugoslav star

BELGRADE, April 1. (Reuters): Star midfielder Dragan Stojkovic will have to earn his place in the Yugoslav squad for the World Cup soccer finals in Italy, national team coach Ivica Osim said yesterday. Osim, unhappy with Stojkovic's contribution in the goalless draw with Poland on Wednesday, complained that he was "playing too much like a superstar rather than an able midfielder who should feed his team mates."

Woodlands Open

WOODLANDS, Texas, April 1. (Reuters): Hal Sutton and David Peoples tied for a three-stroke lead at 11-under-par 133 after two rounds of the \$1 million, rain-shortened Woodlands Open men's golf tournament yesterday.

Australian golf

MONTPELLIER, France, April 1. (Reuters): Golfer Wayne Riley needed a drive of a different kind after holing in one at the AGF Open yesterday. Riley's car, with a nine iron at the third 16th won him a £20,000 (\$32,000) car. But the Australian was unable to drive the vehicle away as he lost his licence for drinking and driving just two weeks ago.

Cup sites

ROME, April 1. (Reuters): Construction workers in Turin will stage a four-hour strike on Tuesday to protest against inadequate safety on World Cup building sites and try to halt what a union leader called a programmed slaughter.

Rebel tours

JOHANNESBURG, April 1. (Reuters): South African cricket chief Ali Bacher yesterday signalled the end of the boycott-breaking rebel tours which have angered anti-apartheid movements over the past decade. "In my opinion the era of unofficial tours is now over. They have served their purpose and now we have to evolve a new cricketing structure in South Africa that embraces all so that we have a common future, common goals and common pride," Bacher said in a statement.

Final appearance

CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland, April 1. (UPI): Some 6,000 fans lined the slopes yesterday to bid farewell to four-time world champion Pimmen Zurbriggen on his final appearance before retiring from competition.

McGirt wins

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, April 1. (AP): Buddy McGirt, the IBF's No. 2 ranked welterweight, stopped Tommy Ayers in the second round of a scheduled 10-round fight yesterday.

Freestyle wrestling

TOLEDO, Ohio, April 1. (UPI): The United States took seven of 10 bouts from Turkey and the Soviets won all 10 from Canada in yesterday's first round of the World Cup of freestyle wrestling.

Hockey tournaments

BRUSSELS, April 1. (Reuters): Australia will stage the men's World Cup tournament in 1994 and Ireland will host the women's event, the International Hockey Federation said yesterday.

Rugby sevens

HONG KONG, April 1. (Reuters): Results in the Hong Kong Sevens rugby union tournament on Sunday:

Quarterfinals
New Zealand 20 Scottish Borders 12
British Barbarians 18 Western Samoa 10
Fiji 28 Tonga 12
Wales 16 Australia 10
Semifinals
New Zealand 24 British Barbarians 6
Fiji 34 Wales 6



Sumo wrestler

Popular Hawaiian-born sumo wrestler Konishiki shakes hands with a boy while walking along Tokyo's Ame-Yoko shopping area. (Reuters wirephoto)

Grabb upsets Lendl

Chang tames Reneberg



Chang to face Grabb in final

Up 5-2, Grabb led 40-15 but committed two unforced errors in trying to convert two set points. Pressing at deuce,

Grabb's hard forehand volley went into the net and he mis-hit an attempted drop shot to lose the game.

Australia reach semifinals

BRISBANE, Australia, April 1. (UPI): Australia surged to its 16th Davis Cup semifinal in 19 years today with a 3-2 win over New Zealand.

Playing on grass at Milton Courts, Australia's Wally Masur was far too strong for New Zealand's Brett Steven, to win comfortably 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 and take Australia to an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

New Zealand's Kelly Everenden hit back to beat John Fitzgerald in the 'dead' last rubber, which nevertheless was played in earnest, 7-5, 6-7 (8-10), 6-1.

Australia will now meet either Argentina or West Germany in a semifinal to be played in Australia from September 21-23, with White City, Sydney, being tipped as the most likely venue, ahead of Perth.

The host country went into today's second round with a 2-1 lead, with singles honours on the first day even, with Masur beating Everenden and Steven coming back from two sets down to beat Fitzgerald.

Carl-Uwe Steeb and his West German team mates shrugged off the continued absence of Boris Becker and the disadvantage of playing on South American clay to take a 2-1 lead over Argentina.

Steeb's pre-tie predictions that the reigning Cup champions could win again even without Wimbedon and US Open champion Becker, had seemed over-confident before the team travelled to Buenos Aires for the world group tie.

But the idea seemed less fanciful after an aggres-

sive and impressive Steeb had beaten Argentina's top man Martin Jaita in a rubber held over from Friday and doubles pair Eric Jelen and Michael Stich had put West Germany 2-1 ahead.

Austria, the surprise of last year when they beat former champions Australia 5-0 on their world group debut, became the first nation to reach this season's semifinals with a remarkably easy win against Italy.

Victory by Austrian doubles pair Thomas Muster and Alexander Antonitsch gave the team an unassailable 3-0 lead and put them into the last four for the first time.

But to reach the final for the first time, Muster and his colleagues now have to get past either 28-time champions the United States or Czechoslovakia.

The Czechoslovaks' hopes of winning their tie were severely dented by a curious decision by captain Frantisek Pal a to use his singles players, Milan Strejber and Petr Korda, in yesterday's doubles in Prague.

The duo were preferred to Tomas Smid and Karel Novacek, who had been expected to play Rick Leach and Jim Pugh, the world's top doubles pair, yesterday.

But Strejber and Korda, a late replacement for injured Olympic champion Miloslav Meir, were both tired after Friday's singles, which had ended 1-1, and they were easily beaten 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to put the Americans 2-1 ahead going into the final day.

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champions could win again even without Wimbedon and US Open champion Becker, had seemed over-confident before the team travelled to Buenos Aires for the world group tie.

After Rob Bailey had been caught at first slip for only seven off Walcott, Marshall dismissed Robin Smith with a classic exhibition of seam bowling.

Hussain came in when fast-bowler Malcolm Marshall was in full flight after dismissing both openers. He played with increasing authority and put away virtually every loose ball he received.

Allan Lamb, in his first innings as captain, was out for only eight when he played across the off-spin of Henderson Springer and was lbw.

Phil DeFreitas went in identical fashion while Chris Lewis and Kit Medlycott were both caught at first slip, Medlycott going first ball.

The Barbados tail had completely disintegrated at the start of the day, with the last four wickets going down for only two runs.

Eddie Hemmings took four

wickets for seven in six overs. He had Marshall caught at long-off, bowled Ricky Hoyte — grandson of the great Everton Weekes — with a quicker ball, trapped Springer lbw on the back foot and had Johnson caught at extra-cover.

Gordon Greenidge, 163 not out overnight, finally went for 183 when Medlycott held a marvellous one-handed catch off his own bowling. Greenidge batted for nearly six and half hours, hitting 21 fours and two sixes, and faced 315 balls.

Greenidge was not quite as dominant in the Barbados second innings, scoring 31 in 25 overs.

Desmond Haynes, however, was out for the sixth successive time for under 50 against England when he played across DeFreitas and was lbw for 13.

Bilal Barqawi of Al Rashed Freight throwing the ceremonial ball

Amy and Mansour win bowling titles

By Sonny Mariano

AFTER two weeks of grueling elimination round, the finals of the Al Rashed Freight Open bowling tournament was held on Friday at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

The tournament which started on March 17 was the first major tournament of PBAK this year and based on the number of bowlers who played in the elimination round, the bowling fever is back among the avid members of the association.

Before the step-ladder finals, the top 24 among those who played in the elimination again played another 4-game series to determine the five finalists for men's and four for the women's division.

After this long process of being in the finals, the champion in both divisions was known via the usual step-ladder finals.

In the women's group, the top four were Bhe Guiamoy, Lynne Reyes, Amy Abdon, and Babes Penalosa while the elite group for the men consisted of Mansour Al Shati, Waleed Al Zink, Lando Caburao, Fadel Ibrahim and Ceiso Estrada.

Going to the actual championship matches in the women's division, Amy Abdon edged out Babes Penalosa in a close match which ended with a score of 172-161. After this inspiring win, Amy turned back Lynne Reyes who could not find the range via a lopsided score of 170-108. These two victories carried Amy into the final confrontation with Bhe Guiamoy, the top qualifier. With momentum on her side, Amy easily subdued Bhe in the two-game final match and went home with the top prize for the women's division's trophy as well.

In the men's step-ladder finals, the first match was between Ceiso Estrada and Fadel Ibrahim. Ceiso who just recently emerged as the champion in the Kuwait National Day Bowling Championship showed what it takes to be a winner by disposing Ibrahim 201-182. After this easy match, Ceiso found a stiff competitor in the person of Lando Caburao more popularly known as the Banana King. With a little bit of luck, Ceiso won over Lando by only three pins 157-154. And if not for the foul committed by Lando the result could have gone the other way around. It was now two down and to go for Ceiso who had now beat Waleed Al Zink to earn a shot at the title against Mansour the top qualifier.

To the delight of the crowd, Ceiso prevailed over Waleed 179-172 to set up a match or rematch I should say because it was Mansour Al Shati whom he beat at KOC for the Kuwait National Day Bowling Championship title. Will history repeat itself or will Mansour get revenge for his previous setback was the question this final match would answer and just in one early stage of the match it was clear that Mansour would even up with Ceiso. The final score was 402-314 for Mansour.

The final standings are as follows:

Women's division: Champion — Amy Abdon, 1st runner up, Bhe Guiamoy; 2nd runner up, Lynne Reyes; 3rd runner up, Babes Penalosa; High Game — 226, Nitza Alzina; High Series — 760, Amy Abdon.

Men's division: Champion — Mansour Al Shati; 1st runner up, Lando Caburao; 2nd runner up, Waleed Al Zink; 3rd runner up, Fadel Ibrahim; High Game — 246, Lando Caburao; High Series — 789, Nashat Hassan.

After the successful staging of this tournament, the PBAK would like to thank Al Rashed Freight and Bilal Barqawi who sponsored this event. And for the smooth staging of the games and for their time and effort, Simon Jude Rivera and Benjie Guimoy should be commended for a job well done.

BOXING

Norris knocks out Mugabi

TAMPA, Fla., April 1. (Reuters): American Terry Norris knocked out defending champion John Mugabi of Uganda in the first round yesterday to win the World Boxing Council super-welterweight title.

The seventh-ranked Norris, 22, whacked Mugabi with a thunderous left hook, which hit the chin, sending the Ugandan staggering until he dropped to the canvas in the opening minute of the scheduled 12-round fight.

Mugabi, 36, making his first title defence since winning the title by stopping René Jacquelin the first round last July, took a eight count before the fight continued.

Mugabi tried to hold off the fast-charging Norris, but with just 13 seconds remaining in the round, Norris caught Mugabi with a looping right-hand, sending Mugabi down again.

A dazed Mugabi laid motionless on the mat for several minutes. He was counted out at two minutes and 47 seconds of the round.

Norris, who raised his record to 25-3 with 14 fights stopped, danced around the ring as his handlers joined in celebration.

It was Mugabi's third loss against 37 victories.

Mugabi was sluggish at the start, landing few punches. Mugabi landed a right hand just early in the round and Norris countered with a short left hook that sent Mugabi reeling and then finally to the canvas.

With his mouthpiece in the centre of the ring, Mugabi stumbled to his feet at the count of eight. Norris landed several punches before putting Mugabi away with an overhand right.

Galvano triumphs

CAPO D'ORLANDO, Italy, April 1. (Reuters): Italy's Mario Galvano won the new European super-middleweight boxing crown when he beat Mark Taylor of Britain in the first title fight of the newly-created division early this morning.

Galvano, 26, collapsed on the canvas in tears when his victory on points over the more experienced Briton, three years his senior, was announced at the end of the tight, grueling 12-round bout in this Sicilian seaside resort.

Cambridge threatened a surprise when they took the lead early on. But Oxford, whose eight included Christopher Heathcote, who at 110.2 kgs was the heaviest man in the event's history, gradually overhauled the underdogs and from the two-km never looked like being caught.

The victory continued Oxford's recent domination of the race. It was their 14th win in the last 15 races.

Oxford win boat race

LONDON, April 1. (Reuters): Oxford, the overwhelming favourites, comfortably won the 136th University Boat Race yesterday when they beat Cambridge by seven seconds.

Employing the heaviest crew in the history of the race, Oxford used their 12.5-kgs per man advantage to full effect, winning in 17 minutes 15 seconds — the quickest time for five years over the 6.9 kms River Thames course.

Nicklaus vaults into lead

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.,